

THE TONGUE

Introduction:

What we say with our mouths affects people more than anything else we do. We can do all sorts of kind deeds, but if we bad mouth someone or speak too hastily, that impression may last a lifetime. It's no wonder the wise man took great time in discussing the importance of Proper Speech.

Tongue Type One: The Conniving Tongue

We all have met and dealt with these people. They are treacherous, they wreak Havoc upon the relationships of individuals. THEY seek first to FURTHER their gain. They'll say ANYTHING to get their way!

Prov 6:12-14

- 12 A worthless person, a wicked man, Is the one who walks with a perverse mouth,
- 13 Who winks with his eyes, who signals with his feet, Who points with his fingers;
- 14 Who with perversity in his heart continually devises evil, Who spreads strife.

Interesting...this verse proceeds the 6 things the Lord hates, (7 that are detestable)

This man is full of lies...

He will use his tongue to get close to your heart, but it's not love it's after.

He will use his tongue to praise His boss, but it's not friendship he desires.

He will stand and complement people till the day is over.... But not with Compassion or sincerity of heart.

MOST Christians have overcome, such speech... but many a new Christian wrestle
TEENS, people meeting new people, seeking to belong or gain approval
BUT IT IS NOT THE WAY TO DO IT!

Prov 26:20-28

20 For lack of wood the fire goes out, And where there is no whisperer, contention
quiets down.

21 Like charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, So is a contentious man to kindle
strife.

22 The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, And they go down into
innermost parts of the body.

23 Like an earthen vessel overlaid with silver dross Are burning lips and a wicked heart.

24 He who hates disguises it with his lips, But he lays up deceit in his heart.

25 When he speaks graciously, do not believe him, For there are seven abominations in
his heart.

26 Though his hatred covers itself with guile, His wickedness will be revealed before the assembly.

27 He who digs a pit will fall into it, And he who rolls a stone, it will come back on him.

28 A lying tongue hates those it crushes, And a flattering mouth works ruin.

I'm not sure if you noticed...but VERSE 25 says there are 7 abominations in his heart. THESE ARE the same things the writer describes as what the Lord finds detestable in the listing of Chapter 6!

Pro 15:4 A soothing tongue is a tree of life, but perversion in it crushes the spirit.

GOD hates a TONGUE that is conniving!

Tongue Type Two: The Careless Tongue

Often times these people are not necessarily lying intentionally or speaking with the intent to deceive. SIMPLY put they are careless with their tongues, and reckless with their speech.

BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE.... Whether or not you intended to lie, or become

Angry & vicious with your speech...or whether it was a spur of the moment type thing MAKES NO DIFFERENCE to GOD!

Prov 12:16 A fool's anger is known at once, But a prudent man conceals dishonor.

17 He who speaks truth tells what is right, But a false witness, deceit.

18 There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the tongue of the wise brings healing.

19 Truthful lips will be established forever, But a lying tongue is only for a moment.

Prov 17:9 He who conceals a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.

Prov 17:14 The beginning of strife is like letting out water, So abandon the quarrel before it breaks out.

Prov 17:19 He who loves transgression loves strife; He who raises his door seeks destruction.

People who are careless with their tongues are:

-Easily provoked to anger

-Quick to retaliate when something harsh is said

-Love to spread gossip (gossip doesn't have to be false!)

BUT A CARELESS TONGUE LEADS TO DESTRUCTION!

Tongue Type Three: The Controlled Tongue (time to look at the 2 good tongue types)

There are several qualities that are easily recognized within this type of person:

Prov 10:19-20

19 When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, But he who restrains his lips is wise.

Notice the Quality of this man/woman's tongue...restraint, it is controlled! And as A benefit of such control we SEE wisdom

20 The tongue of the righteous is as choice silver, the heart of the wicked is worth little.

Prov 11:12-13

12 He who despises his neighbor lacks sense, But a man of understanding keeps silent.

13 He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy conceals A matter.

-A person who controls his tongue not only has the ability to say the right things, they Also know when nothing should be said at all.

-Jesus before Pilot. He uttered not a word to their charges. Extremely difficult!

Prov 13:3

3 The one who guards his mouth preserves his life; The one who opens wide his lips Comes to ruin.

-Now, the wise man isn't talking about wearing a mouthpiece when he says "guards his mouth. Although it wouldn't be a bad idea for some...."

-Those who CONTROL their tongue preserve their lives...physically & spiritually!

Prov 15:28

28 The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked Pours out evil things.

It is more than knowing the right thing to say, it is knowing HOW to answer.

Prov 17:27-28

He who restrains his words has knowledge, And he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding. 28 Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise; When he closes his lips, he is considered prudent.

Prov 24:26 He kisses the lips Who gives a right answer.

Prov 21:23 He who guards his mouth and his tongue, Guards his soul from troubles.

It is ESSENTIAL that we learn to Control our tongue....notice here, some ARGUE that

James says, "the tongue no man can tame" He is NOT saying you cannot learn to Control it.

He is saying that it will always be a loaded instrument for damage, no matter what we Do....therefore we must be careful.

Perhaps the best way to describe what he is saying:

Loaded Gun. Put it on a shelf, in a gun cabinet, behind a lock and key.... Even

Though it is fairly controlled, there is always a degree of DANGER!

LEARN TO CONTROL OUR TONGUES

-A controlled tongue thinks before it speaks, knows when not to speak, and knows how to speak appropriately.

-Unfortunately, most people spend a lifetime with this aspect and never discover the other types of tongues.

Tongue Type Four: The Caring Tongue:

Those who have developed the art of a caring tongue have learned to speak TRUTHFULLY at all times, yet seek to ENCOURAGE others in doing so. THEY Always have the interests of others at heart.

Prov 10:32

The lips of the righteous bring forth what is acceptable, But the mouth of the wicked what is perverted.

Prov 12:18

There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Prov 12:25-26

25 Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down, But a good word makes it glad.

26 The righteous is a guide to his neighbor, But the way of the wicked leads them astray.

Prov 15:23 A man has joy in an apt answer, And how delightful is a timely word!

Prov 16:24 Pleasant words are a honeycomb, Sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

I know this for a fact to be true. **VERY FEW** of you can imagine the impact that Have had on others by having a **CARING TONGUE!**

-Do you believe that your words to **Bob & Ellie** have made a difference?

-Do you believe **kind words to Brenda**, Randy, and Judy lifted their spirits?

-Do you think that those in **Hospitals and Nursing** homes are **encouraged** by the **prayers you've uttered** at their bedsides?

I KNOW FOR A FACT, as I visited my Father last week... Your kind words, in Person, in Prayer, In cards, In Calls... made a difference!

AND THEY WERE "SWEET to the Soul & HEALING to the BONES!"

A CARING TONGUE IS A GIFT FROM GOD BUT WE MUST WORK TO ACHIEVE IT!

In Him,

Byron