

God's Wisdom for Our Lives – Week 12

Speaking in Reference to God: Knowing When Not to Speak

Review

Speaking in Reference to God

1. Know the Impact of Your Words – “Death & Life Are in The Power of The Tongue”
2. Know The Origin of Your Words – “Out of the Heart, The Mouth Speaks”
3. Speech That benefits the Audience – “The tongue of the wise brings healing”

Speaking in Reference to God: Knowing When Not to Speak

When Keeping Silent Might Keep You From Sinning

Read Proverbs 10:8... The wise of heart will receive commands, but a babbling fool will be ruined.

& Prov 10:19... When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise.

1. In proverbs 10:8, what is the wise of heart doing?

2. In contrast, what is the fool doing, and what does it lead to?
 - a. When are we tempted to do this?

 - b. How does it “lead to ruin”?

 - c. How is babbling in opposition to receiving commands?

3. Consider Prov 10:19... How is it that “transgression is unavoidable when there are many words”?

When it's Ready, Fire, Aim

Read Proverbs 18:2... A fool does not delight in understanding, but only in revealing his own mind.

& Prov 18:13 He who gives an answer before he hears, it is folly and shame to him.

& Prov 29:20... Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

4. Consider Proverbs 18:2, 13... What's the issue being addressed in these verses?
 - a. How/when might we be tempted to do this?

 - b. What are the implications for counseling/ discipleship?

5. How does Proverbs 29:20 help us understand the seriousness of hasty speech?

When Repeating is Not Redeeming

Read Proverbs 17:9... He who conceals a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.

& Prov 20:19... He who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets, therefore do not associate with a gossip.

& Prov 18:8, 26:22... The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, and they go down to the innermost parts of the body.

6. Consider Proverbs 17:9... When is right to “conceal a transgression”?

7. How does repeating a matter harm relationships?

8. Consider Proverbs 20:19, 18:8, and 26:22... How do these verses instruct not only what we say, but what we listen to/receive?
 - a. What are some practical suggestions for shutting down conversations that are not aimed at redemptive purposes in accordance with biblical instruction?

When Speaking is Not Submitting

Proverbs 25:24... It is better to live in a corner of the roof than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

& Proverbs 27:15-16... A constant dripping on a day of steady raining and a contentious woman are alike; he who would restrain her restrains the wind, and grasps oil with his right hand.

Proverbs 31:26... She opens her mouth in wisdom and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

9. Consider Proverbs 25:24 & 27:15-16... What is this woman doing, and what is the effect?

10. What are the reasons a wife might be tempted toward contentious, quarrelsome, or nagging speech?

11. How is this a matter of submission to the Lord? (Consider 1 Peter 3:1-6)
 - a. How can controlling this impulse be an aspect of worship for a wife?

12. Consider Proverbs 31:26... What is the opposite of the contentious wife?

Reflection:

13. Can you identify ways you tend to speak too soon? Confess this and ask the Lord for patience and self-control.
14. Can you identify ways you tend to say too much or “babble”? Is sin (pride, arrogance, covering shame) present when you do so?
15. How can you grow in avoiding gossip in your speech, as well as redirecting it in the speech of others?