

Theme: The wise realize the power of the tongue, and carefully guard and use it to bring blessing rather than curse.

I. Intro – Do Words Really Matter?

- A. This text gives a lot of weight to our words
- B. Many in our culture disagree – censorship!
- C. George Carlin *Seven Dirty Words* routine
- D. Do words really matter?
- E. Why would my words show if I am wise?

II. The Importance of the Tongue

- A. God is interested in the tongue
 - 1. God hates lying tongues (6:16-19; 12:22)
 - 2. God will judge our every word (Mat 12:36)
- B. The tongue shows the state of the heart
 - 1. Lying tongue hates those it hurts (26:28)
 - 2. Mouth is overflow of heart (Luke 6:45)
- C. The tongue produces great fruit – good or bad!
 - 1. Filled, satisfied; life & death (18:20-21)
 - 2. 12:13; 12:18; 13:3; 14:3; 15:1; 18:6-7

III. The Characteristics of A Wise Tongue

- A. Restraint – under control (10:19; 17:27-28; Jam 1:26) – censor!
- B. Protective – Keeping Confidence (11:13; 25:9-10)
- C. Truthful – (24:28; 14:5)
- D. Peaceful – Agreeable, Not Quarrelsome (27:15-16; 17:14)
- E. Encouraging – (12:25; 15:4; Eph 4:29)
- F. Pure – (4:24; Col 3:8; Jam 3:9-10)

IV. Conclusion & Summary

- A. Do you see that your tongue matters?
 - 1. God listens to our words – they matter to Him
 - 2. Our words flow from our heart
 - 3. The tongue has power of life & death!
- B. How is the health of my tongue?
 - 1. Is my tongue producing good fruit for me?
 - 2. Where could I be doing better?
 - a. All fail somewhere! (James 3:2)
 - b. List of traits of wise tongue
 - c. Which one am I worst at?
- C. Sanctifying our tongue through Christ

1. Only possible through Christ
2. Memorize/Meditate on Scripture, pray, practice!

The Tongue of the Wise

Proverbs 18:20-21

December 10, 2006

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2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

16 There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, 18 a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, 19 a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers. Proverbs 6:16-19

22 The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful. Proverbs 12:22

36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. Matthew 12:36

28 A lying tongue hates those it hurts, and a flattering mouth works ruin. Proverbs 26:28

45 The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks. Luke 6:45

13 An evil man is trapped by his sinful talk, but a righteous man escapes trouble. Proverbs 12:13

18 Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. Proverbs 12:18

3 He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin. Proverbs 13:3

A fool's talk brings a rod to his back, but the lips of the wise protect them. Proverbs 14:3

1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. Proverbs 15:1

6 A fool's lips bring him strife, and his mouth invites a beating. 7 A fool's mouth is his undoing, and his lips are a snare to his soul. Proverbs 18:6-7

19 When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise. Proverbs 10:19

27 A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered. 28 Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue. Proverbs 17:27-28

26 If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. James 1:26

13 A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret. Proverbs 11:13

9 If you argue your case with a neighbor, do not betray another man's confidence, 10 or he who hears it may shame you and you will never lose your bad reputation. Proverbs 25:9-10

28 Do not testify against your neighbor without cause, or use your lips to deceive. Proverbs 24:28

5 A truthful witness does not deceive, but a false witness pours out lies. Proverbs 14:5

15 A quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping on a rainy day; 16 restraining her is like restraining the wind or grasping oil with the hand. Proverbs 27:15-16

14 Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out. Proverbs 17:14

25 An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up. Proverbs 12:25

4 The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit. Proverbs 15:4

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Ephesians 4:29

24 Put away perversity from your mouth; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. Proverbs 4:24

8 But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Colossians 3:8

9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. James 3:9-10

2 We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check. James 3:2