

CONTROLLING YOUR TONGUE

Proverbs 18:21:

The words we speak can bring life and encouragement, building others up or bringing death: discouragement, tearing down, hurt. Our words are as fruit (fruit of our lips). Our words are either good or evil. The one who speaks what brings life, others will return often to enjoy the "fruit."

Ephesians 4:29

Christians should reflect Jesus in every part of our life. Paul states that no unwholesome, corrupt speech should come from our mouth. The literal translation is "insipid", without "the salt of grace." Our words are to be for edification. See also Ephesians 5:4. Some of our speech may fall into categories listed in verses 31-32 which are things we are to get rid of.

Proverbs 13:3

Being careful what you say (having self control over your tongue) can keep you out of trouble. Speaking hastily can bring troubles (to you and to others). Reckless words, not keeping promises, gossip, etc. could all fall into what is being said.

Luke 6:45

Jesus tells us that our speech and actions reveal the true underlying beliefs, attitudes, and motivations of our heart. What is in our hearts will come out.

Matthew 12:36

On the Day of Judgment, we will be held accountable for every word spoken.

James 1:26

No matter what we do externally and call it religious observant, it is totally worthless and without meaning if we do not bridle our tongue. What comes from our mouth just indicates a heart issue.

1 Peter 3:10

This is a quotation from Psalm 34:12-16. If one delights in life, loving a long life, keep your tongue from evil and deceitful speech.

James 3:6

The tongue is compared to fire because of the damage it can do. What comes from the tongue pollutes the whole body. The wrong words spewing forth cannot be reversed nor the damage they may do.

James 3:10-11

There should never be mixed speech coming from us (blessings and cursing). The cursings are a form of pollution. In nature, fresh water and salt water never come from the same spring. It should be the same for man and our words.

Proverbs 18:7-8

Verse 7 speaks of a fool finding himself in trouble because he speaks thoughtlessly from a corrupt heart.

Verse 8 speaks of gossiping. The information going down may be sweet like a delicacy but it can also prove ruinous. Gossip is one thing God hates.