

THE WISDOM IN OUR WORDS

Proverbs 15:4, 23

- *"Gentle words are a tree of life…"* (Proverbs 15:4a)
- *"Everyone enjoys a fitting reply; it is wonderful to say the right thing at the right time!" (*Proverbs 15:23)
- **Many people do not understand the power of their words.**
- *"The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences."* (Proverbs 18:21)
- **Many people speak without ever giving thought as to what they are saying.**
- "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words shall never hurt me." -19th Century Children Rhyme
- **We tell ourselves that actions are more harmful than words but that is not always true.**
- *"Everyone enjoys a fitting reply; it is wonderful to say the right thing at the right time!" (*Proverbs 15:23)
- **We need to allow the Holy Spirit to flow through us to grant us the wisdom to know what to say and how to say it.**
- ***What are some steps we can take to be wiser in our conversations with others?***

We Are Wise With Our Words When We:

REFRAIN FROM USING <u>HARMFUL</u> WORDS

- *"So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!"* (James 3:5)
- "Watch out for the joy-stealers: gossip, criticism, complaining, fault finding, and a negative, judgmental attitude." ~ Joyce Meyer
- ***What kind of destructive words can we be guilty of?***
- **Harmful Words Include *Angry Words*.**

    - *“An angry person starts fights; a hot-tempered person commits all kinds of sin.”* - (Proverbs 29:22)
    - *“Control your temper, for anger labels you a fool.”* (Ecclesiates 7:9)
    - *“When angry, count to ten before you speak. If very angry, count to one hundred.” - Thomas Jefferson*
- **Harmful Words Include *Gossipy Words*.**
    - *“A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends.”* (Proverbs 16:28)
    - **GOSSIP is the devils radio, don’t become his DJ!!!**
    - **When you gossip about someone, you steal their opportunity to speak into someone’s life.**
    - *“Who may worship in your sanctuary, Lord? . . . Those who refuse to gossip or harm their neighbors or speak evil of their friends.”* (Psalms 15:1-3)
    - “Words have no wings but they can fly a thousand miles.“ ~ Korean Proverb
    - **Most of what we share we do not have the correct facts and when we do rarely have the permission to share it.**
- **Harmful Words Include *Negative Words*.**
    - *Don’t be fooled by those who say such things, for “bad company corrupts good character.”* (1 Corinthians 15:33)
    - **There is enough negativity in the world without us adding to it.**
- **Harmful Words Include *Slanderous and Demeaning Words*.**
    - *“With their words, the godless destroy their friends . . .”* (Proverbs 11:9)
    - *“Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.”* (Ephesians 4:29)
    - *“Be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.”* (Titus 3:2)
    - **People will take opportunities to tear down others to make themselves look or feel good.**
- **Harmful Words Include *Deceptive Words.***
    - *“...A deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.” (*Proverbs 15:4b)
    - *“Truthful words stand the test of time, but lies are soon exposed.”* (Proverbs 12:19)
    - **Deception only creates wedges in our relationships with others around us.**
- ***What types of harmful words do I need to eliminate from my speech?***

We Are Wise With Our Words When We:

CHOOSE TO USE <u>HELPFUL</u> WORDS

- *"Gentle words are a tree of life…"* (Proverbs 15:4a)
- ***Loving Words* Are Helpful Words*.***
    - *"If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing."* (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)
    - **Sometimes the worst things you ever heard about yourself was to yourself!!!**
    - **Sometimes the greatest Enemy is the inner me.**
    - **People need to hear from us words like "I love you" or "I like being your friend."**
- ***Affirming Words* Are Helpful Words*.***
    - *"The wise are known for their understanding, and pleasant words are persuasive."* (Proverbs 16:21)
    - **People need to hear how important they are to us.**
    - **Declaring our appreciation, fidelity, loyalty and commitment to others shows them that importance.**
- ***Encouraging Words* Are Helpful Words*.***
    - *"Kind words are like honey - sweet to the soul and healthy for the body."* (Proverbs 16:24)
    - **Everyone needs a cheerleading section in their life.**
    - **Life is hard and encouraging words can be the difference in someone giving up and someone rising up.**
- ***Challenging Words* Are Helpful Words*.***
    - *"As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend."* (Proverbs 27:17)
    - *"If you listen to constructive criticism, you will be at home among the wise."* (Proverbs 15:31)
    - **Everyone needs constructive criticism to grow in who they are.**
    - *"Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy."* (Proverbs 27:6)
    - **When giving Constructive Criticism: 1) Check your motive before you speak (the goal is to help not humiliate others), 2) Make sure the issue is worthy of critique, 3) Be specific, 4) Don't undermine the person's self-confidence, 5) Don't compare one person with another, 6) Be creative, 7) Attack the problem, not the person, 8) Confront**

when the time is right, 9) Judge yourself before judging others, and 10) End the confrontation with encouragement.

- ***What helpful words do I need to focus on in regards to my speech with others?***

- *"Everyone enjoys a fitting reply; it is wonderful to say the right thing at the right time!" (*Proverbs 15:23)
- **Words have power…the power to build up or the power to tear down.**
- ***What is the Lord saying to me through this message?***