



## The Power of Words 08.23.20

**James 3:2-12** *For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. <sup>3</sup> Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. <sup>4</sup> Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. <sup>5</sup> Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! <sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup> For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. <sup>8</sup> But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. <sup>10</sup> Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup> Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? <sup>12</sup> Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.*

### **Six Challenges of Communication:**

1. What the speaker intends to say
2. What the speaker actually says
3. What the speaker is remembered to have said
4. What the hearer wants to hear
5. What the hearer actually hears
6. What the hearer thinks they heard

**Psalm 19:14** *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.*

1. When we love Jesus, it matters how we use our words.
2. Regardless of our love for Christ, we will sin with our words.

**Proverbs 6:2-3** *You are snared by the words of your mouth; You are taken by the words of your mouth. <sup>3</sup> So do this, my son, and deliver yourself; For you have come into the hand of your friend: Go and humble yourself; Plead with your friend. ("friend" – often a spouse, sibling, child or parent)*

**Proverbs 2:16, 6:24, 7:5, 21** - The power of flattering words for sexual seduction.

**Proverbs 4:24** *Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you.*

**Proverbs 6:16-19** *These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: <sup>17</sup>A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup>A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, <sup>19</sup>A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.*

**Proverbs 10:19** *In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise.*

**Proverbs 10:31-32** *The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom...<sup>32</sup>The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, But the mouth of the wicked what is perverse.*

**Proverbs 11:9** *The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor*

**Proverbs 12:18** *There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, But the tongue of the wise promotes health.*

**Proverbs 13:3** *He who guards his mouth preserves his life, But he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.*

**Proverbs 21:23** *Whoever guards his mouth and tongue Keeps his soul from troubles.*

**Proverbs 15:1-2** *A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.<sup>2</sup>The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.*

**Proverbs 15:28** *The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.*

**Proverbs 16:23** *The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, And adds learning to his lips.*

**Proverbs 25:11** *A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver.<sup>12</sup>Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold Is a wise rebuker to an obedient ear.*

**Proverbs 26:28** *A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, And a flattering mouth works ruin.*

**Proverbs 28:23** *He who rebukes a man will find more favor afterward Than he who flatters with the tongue.*

**Proverbs 30:32** *If you have been foolish in exalting yourself, Or if you have devised evil, put your hand on your mouth.*

**Proverbs 31:26** *She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness.*

**1 Peter 2:19-23** *For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.<sup>20</sup> For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.<sup>21</sup> For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:<sup>22</sup>“Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”;<sup>23</sup> who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously.*

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- Recommended Reading | *War of Words: Getting to the Heart of Your Communication Struggles* by Paul Tripp
- **How to Read Scripture** by Pastor Jerry | 1.26.2020 (A sermon explaining the way to read Proverbs.) [gbcmason.org/media](http://gbcmason.org/media)