

# GOOD COMMUNICATION

## I. THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

The words that come out of our mouths can do a lot of good, but also a lot of damage (James 3:5-10). *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”* Proverbs 18:21

## II. GOD HAS GIVEN US SPEECH

A. God has given us this mouth, and the ability to speak. It’s important that we see the value of the tongue. We are to use our speech to serve and glorify God.

B. By our speech we are to bear fruit, we are to positively affect others. John 15:8

C. Jesus is our best example. He said, *“I did not speak of My own accord, but the Father who sent Me commanded Me what to say and how to say it.”* John 12:49

## III. THE NEED AND PURPOSE OF OUR SPEECH

Communication is essential. We need to use it for our job, our family, for making disciples (Matthew 28:19), for fellowship, for encouragement (Hebrews 3:12-13), for the truth to be taught (Ephesians 4:12-13), for the purposes of the church to be met, for counseling (1 Thessalonians 5:14), and for evangelism (Colossians 4:5-6).

## IV. SPECIFIC PRINCIPLES ABOUT COMMUNICATION

A. Have a good heart: *“The lips of the righteous bring forth what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked what is perverted.”* Proverbs 10:32

B. Guard your mouth: *“The one who guards his mouth preserves his life; the one who opens wide his mouth comes to ruin.”* Proverbs 13:3

C. Don’t talk too much: *“When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise.”* Proverbs 10:19, 17:27

D. It’s usually good to listen first: *“He who gives an answer before he hears, it is folly and shame to him.”* Proverbs 18:13, Proverbs 18:2

E. Don’t hurt people with your speech: *“There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”* Proverbs 12:18

F. Speak lovingly and kindly: *“Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”* Proverbs 16:24, Ephesians 4:15

G. Don't lie, speak the truth: *“Truthful lips will be established forever, but a lying tongue only for a moment.”* Proverbs 12:19

H. Don't let your talking keep you from working: *“In all labor there's profit but mere talk leads only to poverty.”* Proverbs 14:23

I. Don't talk in a silly way or use bad words: *“There must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but giving of thanks.”* Ephesians 5:4

J. Speak so others are edified and encouraged: *“Let no unwholesome word proceed out of your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.”* Ephesians 4:29, Proverbs 12:25

K. You're not to gossip or slander: *“He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.”* Proverbs 11:13, 10:18

L. Don't start arguments, but learn to stop them. *“A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but the slow to anger calms a dispute.”* Proverbs 15:18

M. Share the truth: *“The lips of the wise spread knowledge, but the hearts of fools are not so.”* Proverbs 15:7

LET THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH AND THE MEDITATION OF MY HEART  
BE ACCEPTABLE IN YOUR SIGHT, O LORD,  
MY ROCK, AND MY REDEEMER.  
Psalm 19:14

SOME QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:

1. What is the main thing that you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. Why is your speech so important? Why did God give you the ability to speak?
3. Give examples of how you have seen speech be constructive and destructive.
4. What are some of the purposes of speech?
5. Evaluate yourself. How do you think you are doing in speaking to others?
6. What is the single most important element to having good speech? Why?
7. Which principles of speech do you need to most apply to your life?