



The tongue has God-given power to bring life or death through our words. Believers are called to submit our speech to Christ and use our words to bless and not to harm.

WHEN SHOULD WE REMAIN SILENT?

- In the heat of anger (Proverbs 14:17)
- When you don't have all the facts (Proverbs 18:13)
- When you haven't verified the story (Deuteronomy 17:6)
- If your words will hurt a weaker brother (1 Corinthians 8:11)
- If your words will poorly reflect upon Jesus, family or friends (1 Peter 2:21-23)
- When you are tempted to joke about sin (Proverbs 14:9)
- If you would be ashamed of your words at a later time (Proverbs 8:8)
- When you are tempted to make light of holy things (Ecclesiastes 5:2)
- If your words would convey the wrong impression (Proverbs 17:27)
- If the issue is none of your business (Proverbs 14:10)
- When you are tempted to tell a lie (Proverbs 4:24)
- If your words will damage someone else's reputation (Proverbs 16:27)
- If your words will destroy a friendship (Proverbs 25:28)
- When you are feeling critical (James 3:9)
- If you can't speak without yelling (Proverbs 25:28)
- When it is time to listen (Proverbs 13:1)
- If you may have to take back your words later (Proverbs 18:21)
- If you are in danger of nagging someone about the same thing (Proverbs 19:13)
- When you are tempted to flatter a wicked person (Proverbs 24:24)
- When you are supposed to be working instead (Proverbs 14:23)

BIBLICAL WARNINGS ABOUT SPEECH

- Death and life are in the power of the tongue (Proverbs 18:21)
- Holding your tongue keeps you out of trouble (Proverbs 21:23)
- People will give account of every careless word (Matthew 12:36)
- Soft answers turn away wrath; harsh words stir up anger (Proverbs 15:1)
- Our words display our heart (Luke 6:45)
- Our words can grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:29-31)
- Our words can bring judgment and discipline (Proverbs 6:16-19; Psalm 52:2-5; Acts 5:1-11)
- Do not be rash or hasty with your words before God (Ecclesiastes 5:2-4)
- The tongue is small but powerful (James 3:1-18)
- Listen before you answer (Proverbs 18:13)
- The mouth of the wicked pours out evil things (Proverbs 15:28)



- The mouth of the fool pours out folly (Proverbs 15:2)
- Set a guard over your mouth and bridle your tongue (Psalm 141:3; Proverbs 13:3; James 1:26)
- Be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger (James 1:19)
- Let your words be acceptable in God's sight (Proverbs 18:20)
- Put away anger, wrath, malice, slander and obscene talk (Colossians 3:8)
- Do all things without grumbling or disputing (Philippians 2:14)

IN OUR SPEECH, WE SHOULD NOT...

- Lie, bear false witness or belittle our neighbor (Exodus 20:16; Proverbs 6:16-19, 11:12, 12:22, 19:5; Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:9)
- Gossip, slander or spread strife (Leviticus 19:16; Proverbs 20:19, 16:28, 11:13, 2 Corinthians 12:20; James 4:11)
- Use angry, harsh or abusive words (Proverbs 15:1, 29:22; Ephesians 4:31; Colossians 3:8)
- Use corrupt, filthy, crude or foolish talk (Ephesians 4:29, 5:4; Colossians 3:8)
- Use flattery or manipulative praise (Proverbs 26:28, 29:5; Romans 16:18)
- Use boasting or self-exalting speech (Proverbs 27:2; James 4:16)
- Use perverse, twisted or deceptive speech (Proverbs 4:24, 8:13; Ephesians 4:29)
- Use rash, many or careless words (Proverbs 10:19, 29:20; Ecclesiastes 5:2)
- Take God's name in vain or use it lightly (Exodus 20:7; James 5:12)

IN OUR SPEECH, WE SHOULD BE...

- Truthful and honest (Zechariah 8:16; Ephesians 4:25; Proverbs 12:17-19)
- Edifying and uplifting (Ephesians 4:29; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Proverbs 10:21)
- Gentle, peace-making and healing (Proverbs 15:1, 4; James 3:17-18)
- Gracious and seasoned with salt (Colossians 4:6; Proverbs 16:24)
- Thankful and offering praise (Ephesians 5:4; Hebrews 13:15; Psalm 34:1)
- Proclaiming the gospel and sound in doctrine (Romans 10:9-15; 2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 2:1, 8)
- Loving in our correction or rebuke (Proverbs 27:5-6; Galatians 6:1; Ephesians 4:15)
- Speaking blessings to others because we've been called to inherit a blessing (1 Peter 3:9)