

8-Road Skills – Word Ethics

07/18/2010 - Jim Johnson

Proverbs has much to teach us on how we use our words. Word Ethics - if you will. Words are a hugely powerful forces for evil or good. We need to know how to wisely use them.



1. We are to speak _____ . (27:14; 25:11; 15:23)

The idea behind this verse has to do with the appropriateness of our words. The right word at the right time and in the right way. There needs to be sensitivity to the situation and the moment.

2. We are to speak _____ . (10:31)

The Word of God contains good and perfect and true words which have a life giving power to them. We need to speak God's wisdom to each other.

3. We need to speak _____ . (16:21, 23-24)

When it comes to our words, they need to be strictly sweet and pleasant. Ugly, forceful, insensitive words are useless words. They alienate and aggravate instead of motivate.

4. We are to speak _____ . (11:9)

The mouth may be the most destructive part of our bodies. It levels reputations – assaults character, and abuses hearts. God requires from us, however, words that affirm and build up.

5. We are to speak _____ . (18:8; 16:28)

The things we whisper to each other are damaging and divisive – If they weren't we wouldn't be whispering them. Such words are like dry wood on a small fire; they become the fuel that turns it into an inferno. Gossip usually involves slander as well. To slander is to take unflattering information about someone – maybe be true / maybe not, and then passes it on to others. We need to go right to that person who hurt us, and discuss the issues with them. To talk to others about it does nothing to resolve the problem, but enlarges the circle of offense and intensifies the strife. To talk to the person who hurt us, gives us - and them - a chance to work it out. It creates the possibility of confession and forgiveness.

6. We are to speak _____ . (29:20; 17:28)

We need to be very careful with what we say knowing that one word has almost an infinite power to enrage and destroy others. We especially need to watch what we say in the heat of the moment. We need to speak cautiously – to make sure we are saying the right thing with the right heart.

7. We are to speak _____ . (20:17; 28:13)

We generally choose to lie in order to avoid some kind of unpleasant consequence but we fail to understand that lying does not eliminate the consequences. It complicates them and makes them bigger and much worse. Also, honesty means that even if we do blow it, that we follow up the failure with a confession.

8. We are to speak _____. (25:6-7; 30:32)

The least liked words in the English language are arrogant words. Nobody enjoys a boastful, conceited person. If you happen to be that kind of person, don't open your mouth and prove it.

9. We need to speak _____. (26:4)

It is easy to be drawn into a fool's argument. Only the wise among us recognizes such foolishness and leaves the foolish words hanging in the mouth of the fool.

10. We need to speak _____. (21:19)

To tell someone about a problem once is responsible. To repeat yourself over and over is demeaning and disrespectful. Our words should bless others rather than berate others.

11. We need to speak _____. (18:2, 13)

We need to hear what a person has to say, before we respond. We tend to think that it is more important for them to hear what I have to say than to hear what they have to say. The wise person will listen to what they are being told before they respond.

12. We need to speak _____. (10:19)

The more we say, the greater the risk of offense. Words are fluid. They can mean different things to different people. A word can take on different meaning just by the way we say that word. The better way is to cool down, isolate the particular issue that needs to be discussed, and focus on that one issue, carefully measuring every word that is said.

13. We need to speak _____. (15:1; 25:15; 15:4)

Proverbs tells us over and over that we accomplish infinitely more with carefully chosen, softly spoken words than we do by screaming and yelling and threatening.

14. We need to speak _____. (15:29)

Some of the best words that pass our lips each day are words of prayer.

The truth that weaves this passage together is this: **Words _____.** **Therefore we must always use them carefully and profitably.**

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Use this section in your personal or family devotions to better apply the truth.

Take this list of 14 characteristics, and use it as a review sheet at the end of each day. Evaluate your words just as the Talked family did.