

Improper speech, its *source*, and (-) effects

I. Its Destructiveness

A. To the speaker

- **Death** and life *are* in the power of the tongue. 18:21
- A *fool's* mouth *is* his **destruction**, and his lips *are* the **snare of his soul**. 18:7

B. To others

- [the city] *is* **overthrown** by the mouth of the **wicked**. 11:11
- The words of the **wicked** *are* to **lie in wait for blood**.... 12:6
- There is that speaketh like the **piercings of a sword**. 12:18
- An **ungodly** man diggeth up evil: and in his lips *there is* as a **burning fire**. 16:27
- A **violent** man . . . moving his lips he **bringeth evil to pass**. 16:29-30

II. Content - What Not To Say

A. False Witness/Lying

- BE NOT A WITNESS against thy neighbour without cause; and DECEIVE NOT with thy lips. 24:28
- A man that beareth false witness against his neighbour **is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow**. 25:18
- A false witness **shall not be unpunished**, and he that speaketh lies **shall not escape**. 19:5
- A false witness **shall not be unpunished**, and he that speaketh lies **shall perish**. 19:9
- An ungodly witness scorneth judgment: 19:28
- These six things doth **the LORD hate**: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: . . . a lying tongue, . . . a false witness that speaketh lies....6:16-19
- The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a **vanity** tossed to and fro of **them that seek death**. 21:6
- . . . a **false witness** will utter lies. 14:5
- . . . a **deceitful witness** speaketh lies. 14:25
- A false witness shall **perish**: 21:28
- He that hideth hatred with lying lips . . . is a **fool**. 10:18

- Lying lips are **abomination to the LORD**: 12:22
- ... a lying tongue is but **for a moment**. 12:19
- A lying tongue **hateth** those that are **afflicted** by it. 26:28

B. Slander

- DEBATE THY CAUSE with thy neighbour himself; and DISCOVER NOT A SECRET to another: Lest he that heareth it put thee to **shame**, and thine **infamy** turn not away. 25:9-10
- He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: 20:19
- ...he that repeateth a matter **separateth very friends**. 17:9
- The words of a talebearer are as **wounds**, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. 18:8; 26:22
- A talebearer revealeth secrets. 11:13
- ... a whisperer **separateth chief friends**. 16:28
- ... he that uttereth a slander, is a **fool**. 10:18

C. Perversity

- PUT AWAY from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips PUT FAR FROM THEE. 4:24
- ... the mouth of the **wicked** speaketh frowardness. 10:32
- ... the froward tongue shall be **cut out**. 10:31
- ... he that hath a perverse tongue **falleth into mischief**. 17:20
- ... perverseness therein [the tongue] **is a breach in the spirit**. 15:4

D. Pride

- LET ANOTHER MAN PRAISE THEE, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips. 27:2
- If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, LAY THINE HAND UPON THY MOUTH. 30:32
- In the mouth of the **foolish** is a **rod** of pride: 14:3

E. Hypocrisy

- He that **hateth** dissembleth with his lips, and **layeth up deceit** within him; When he speaketh fair, BELIEVE HIM NOT: for there are **seven abominations in his heart**. 26:24-25
- An **hypocrite** with his mouth **destroyeth his neighbour**: 11:9

F. Flattery

- MEDDLE NOT with him that flattereth with his lips. 20:19
- A man that flattereth his neighbour **spreadeth a net for his feet**. 29:5
- ...a flattering mouth **worketh ruin**. 26:28

G. Foolishness

- ... the mouth of *fools* poureth out foolishness 15:2

III. Manner - How Not To Say It

A. Loquacious

- In the multitude of words there wanteth not **sin**: 10:19
- ... a prating *fool* shall **fall**. 10:8,10
- ... the talk of the lips tendeth only to **penury**. 14:23
- ... he that openeth wide his lips shall have **destruction**. 13:3
- A *fool* uttereth all his mind: 29:11

B. Loud

- He that blesseth his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it **shall be counted a curse** to him. 27:14

C. Contentious

- A *fool's* lips enter into contention, and his mouth **calleth for strokes**. 18:6

D. Hurtful

- ... grievous words **stir up anger**. 15:1

IV. Timing - When Not To Say It

A. Hasty

- Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is **more hope of a fool** than of him. 29:20

B. Without listening

- He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is **folly and shame** unto him. 18:13

V. Audience – Who Not To Speak To

- SPEAK NOT in the ears of a fool: for **he will despise** the wisdom of thy words. 23:9