

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT
A STUDY OF THE STEWARDSHIP OF SPEECH
Matthew 12:36

“We are masters of the unsaid words, but slaves of those we let slip out.”
Winston Churchill

Our words matter! There is no rewind function in our words. We can never truly take back what we say, as much as we wish from time to time. Much of our strife in our homes, schools, churches, and nation is because of our foolish words. But we often underestimate the importance of our words. Much can be said of a person's character by the way they use their tongue.

- A research reports says the average person speaks about 700 times a day.
- Sanaca once said, "Speech is the index of the mind."
- Jesus said that "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." (Mat. 12:34)

CONSEQUENCES OF AN UNCONTROLLABLE TONGUE

- ❖ They can discourage and destroy an individual's esteem, dreams, and will.
- ❖ They can divide and devastate a family.
- ❖ They can cause confusion and controversy in a church.
- ❖ They can cause an individual to look foolish.
- ❖ They can deter or cost an individual's future.

TYPES OF UNCONTROLLABLE TONGUES

The Lying Tongue

- ✓ **Prov 25:18**-A man who bears false witness against his neighbor, *is like* a club, a sword, and a sharp arrow.
- ✓ **Prov 6:17**- A faithful witness does not lie, But a false witness will utter lies.

The Flattering Tongue- Flattery is also a sin of the tongue. The Bible speaks of flattery as a characteristic of the wicked, not the righteous. Flattery is closely associated with deceit.

- ✓ **Prov 26:24-28**- Whoever hates disguises himself with his lips and harbors deceit in his heart; when he speaks graciously, believe him not, for there are seven abominations in his heart; though his hatred be covered with deception, his wickedness will be exposed in the assembly. Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, and a stone will come back on him who starts it rolling. A lying tongue hates its victims, and a flattering mouth works ruin.

The Proud Tongue- The most annoying Christians in the world are those with proud tongues because a proud tongue usually comes with two closed ears! Proud- tongued Christians are generally so full of themselves that they learn very little from anyone else.

- ✓ **Prov 27:2**-Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.

The Overused Tongue- Some people sin by simply overusing their tongue.

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

The Swift Tongue- Some people are guilty of speaking too swiftly when they really need to wait before saying anything.

- ✓ **Prov 18:13-** He who answers a matter before he hears *it*, It *is* folly and shame to him.

The Backbiting Tongue- A backbiter is someone who uses their tongue against you when you aren't present, yet they will not face you with their charges when you are present. A backbiter is one who would rather stir up problems than solve problems.

- ✓ **Prov 25:23-** The north wind brings forth rain, And a backbiting tongue an angry countenance.

The Foul Tongue- Foul language, dirty jokes or stories, and silly talk is another area that believers should avoid.

- ✓ **Prov 15:4-** A wholesome tongue *is* a tree of life, But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

The Talebearing Tongue- Talebearing (carrying and telling tales) spreads all sorts of hurtful information around, and Satan uses such information to hinder and tear down God's work.

- ✓ **Prov 18:8-** The words of a talebearer *are* like tasty trifles, And they go down into the inmost body.
- ✓ **Prov 10:18-** Whoever hides hatred *has* lying lips, And whoever spreads slander *is* a fool.

CONTROLLING MY TONGUE

- **I MUST LEARN TO SPEAK _____.**

Prov 25:11-A word fitly spoken *is like* apples of gold, in settings of silver.

- **I MUST LEARN TO SPEAK _____.**

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

- **I MUST LEARN TO SPEAK _____.**

Prov 17:27-28-He who has knowledge spares his words, *And* a man of understanding is of a calm spirit. Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; *When* he shuts his lips, *he is considered* perceptive.

- **I MUST LEARN TO SPEAK _____.**

Prov 12:19-The truthful lip shall be established forever, But a lying tongue *is* but for a moment.