

Tongues (and Tweets!) of Fire

Biblical Principles for Online Communication

Equipping Hour

Sunday, August 1, 2021

Introduction:

Apply biblical speech principles to your online communication (especially broadcast communication):

I. Some passages addressing your speech:

Leviticus 19:16

'You shall not go about as a slanderer among your people, and you are not to act against the life of your neighbor; I am the LORD.

Psalms 15:3

He does not slander with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor takes up a reproach against his friend;

Psalms 101:5

Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy; No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure.

Proverbs 4:24

Put away from you a deceitful mouth And put devious speech far from you.

Proverbs 6:16–19

16 There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: 17 Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, 19 A false witness who utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.

Proverbs 8:13

"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverted mouth, I hate.

Proverbs 10:8

The wise of heart will receive commands, But a babbling fool will be ruined.

Proverbs 10:18

He who conceals hatred has lying lips, And he who spreads slander is a fool.

Proverbs 10:19

When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, But he who restrains his lips is wise.

Proverbs 10:20–21

20 The tongue of the righteous is as choice silver, The heart of the wicked is worth little. 21 The lips of the righteous feed many, But fools die for lack of understanding.

Proverbs 12:15

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who listens to counsel.

Proverbs 12:17

He who speaks truth tells what is right, But a false witness, deceit.

Proverbs 12:18

There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Proverbs 12:19

Truthful lips will be established forever, But a lying tongue is only for a moment.

Proverbs 12:22

Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, But those who deal faithfully are His delight.

Proverbs 12:23

A prudent man conceals knowledge, But the heart of fools proclaims folly.

Proverbs 13:3

The one who guards his mouth preserves his life; The one who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.

Proverbs 14:23

In all labor there is profit, But mere talk leads only to poverty.

Proverbs 15:1

A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 15:2

The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, But the mouth of fools spouts folly.

Proverbs 15:23

A man has joy in an apt answer, And how delightful is a timely word!

Proverbs 15:28

The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.

Proverbs 16:28

A perverse man spreads strife, And a slanderer separates intimate friends.

Proverbs 17:4

An evildoer listens to wicked lips; A liar pays attention to a destructive tongue.

Proverbs 17:9

He who conceals a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.

Proverbs 17:14

The beginning of strife is like letting out water, So abandon the quarrel before it breaks out.

Proverbs 17:27–28

27 He who restrains his words has knowledge, And he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding. 28 Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise; When he closes his lips, he is considered prudent.

Proverbs 18:2

A fool does not delight in understanding, But only in revealing his own mind.

Proverbs 18:6–7

6 A fool's lips bring strife, And his mouth calls for blows. 7 A fool's mouth is his ruin, And his lips are the snare of his soul.

Proverbs 18:8

The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, And they go down into the innermost parts of the body.

Proverbs 18:13

He who gives an answer before he hears, It is folly and shame to him.

Proverbs 18:21

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

Proverbs 19:1

Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity Than he who is perverse in speech and is a fool.

Proverbs 20:3

Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, But any fool will quarrel.

Proverbs 20:19

He who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets, Therefore do not associate with a gossip.

Proverbs 20:25

It is a trap for a man to say rashly, "It is holy!" And after the vows to make inquiry.

Proverbs 21:23

He who guards his mouth and his tongue, Guards his soul from troubles.

Proverbs 23:15–16

15 My son, if your heart is wise, My own heart also will be glad; 16 And my inmost being will rejoice When your lips speak what is right.

Proverbs 25:11–12

11 Like apples of gold in settings of silver Is a word spoken in right circumstances. 12 Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold Is a wise reprover to a listening ear.

Proverbs 25:15

By forbearance a ruler may be persuaded, And a soft tongue breaks the bone.

Proverbs 26:20–21

20 For lack of wood the fire goes out, And where there is no whisperer, contention quiets down. 21 Like charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, So is a contentious man to kindle strife.

Proverbs 27:2

Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.

Proverbs 29:20

Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Proverbs 30:10

Do not slander a slave to his master, Or he will curse you and you will be found guilty.

Matthew 12:36

"But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.

Ephesians 4:29

Let no unwholesome word proceed from 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 4:31

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

Colossians 3:8

But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.

Colossians 4:6

Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

1 Timothy 3:11

Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.

1 Timothy 4:12

Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

1 Timothy 5:13

At the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper to mention.

James 1:19

This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;

James 1:26

If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.

James 3:1–12

1 Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. 2 For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well. 3 Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well. 4 Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. 5 So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of

our life, and is set on fire by hell. 7 For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. 8 But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; 10 from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. 11 Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor can salt water produce fresh.

II. **Some principles to govern your keyboard:**

- 1) Please the Lord.
- 2) Fear teaching.
- 3) Speak truth.
- 4) Avoid quarrels.
- 5) Abstain from self-absorption.
- 6) Recognize self-exaltation.
- 7) Refuse gossip/slander.
- 8) Pursue edification.
- 9) Steward your time.
- 10) Speak (and broadcast) as if accountable for every word.