



**Introduction**

Think about it:  
 Can you make almost anyone feel awful in a few sentences?  
 Can you make anyone feel great in a few words?  
 Have you ever directed someone's life in a sentence, or been directed by a single statement from someone?  
 Why do many people dislike free speech?  
 Why do sales people make a point to repeat your name and compliment you?

**Proposition**

Jesus gives life through mouths of honorable expression  
 Your speech is something like a superpower, therefore how you use this power defines you.

- 3 Parts:**
- 1. Understand the uses of habit and bad speech.
  - 2. Learn the virtues of wise and honorable speech.
  - 3. Connect them back to Jesus.

**1. Know perverse speech for what it is**

*[Faint text and graphics visible through the paper texture]*

**2. Learn the virtues of wise speech**

Learning to speak according to our divine purpose and with creation's fabric.

**3. Jesus the Word gave his life to make our words life-giving**

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THE WAY OF

WISDOM

IN PROVERBS

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Jesus gives life through mouths of honorable expression

Your speech is something like a superpower,  
therefore how you use this power defines you.

# 3 Parts:

1. Understand the vices of foolish and wicked speech
2. Learn the virtues of wise and honorable speech
3. Connect them both to Jesus

### Proverbs 8:12-13

"I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion. To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech."

Because of the power of words, perverse speech twists our view of reality with words, to make it seem as though it's something that it isn't.

### What is "Perversity"?

Ety: "Per"- thoroughly, "verse"- turned (i.e. "thoroughly turned")

**Psalm 18:26 (ESV)** - With the purified you show yourself pure; and with the **crooked** you make yourself seem **tortuous**.

"**twisted, crooked, wrestled**"

Assumes 'teleology': Twisted "from the right way"

Assumes purpose: Using something for a purpose other than what it was created for - one that subverts God's purposes.

"Hey, you can't call me that!"

# 1. Know perverse speech for what it is

## Perversity hides in euphemism

"The modern world's weakness for euphemism is evidence of mental breakdown even more than of moral breakdown. When we use our language, not to express the truth, but to hide the truth, [we are not just being dishonest], we lose our ability to think clearly."

- Chesterton (paraphrase)

### Perverse use of the tongue:

1. To malign someone with **gossip**
2. **Intemperance**: Giving vent to vice without restraint - especially in anger-but also in cutting words, sarcasm, mocking, etc.
3. **Rash vows/flying**: Speaking, promising or vowing rashly - or all speaking before real considerations/thinking
4. **Flattery & boastfulness**: Self-praise/not giving rightful praise to others (Ps. 12:3)
5. **Teaching & advertising folly/foolishness** (James 3)
6. **Quarrelsome**: To create drama - start a quarrel, stir it up and don't let it die. Gossip is partly keeping drama going - which stirs up drama so it can't burn out.

### 7. **Reckless words**: "Pierce like a sword"

8. **Slander/slug**: To attack someone in front of others (Psalm 15:3)

9. **Gloating/Contempt**: Showing contempt for failure-and gloating in success-

esp over the poor.

10. **"Butting in"**, Proverbs 26:17 "Like one who seizes a dog by the ears is a

passer-by who meddles in a quarrel not his own."

11. **Lying, deceit**, or promising without following up on the promise.

12. **Gossip/betrayal of a confidence**: hurts the person it's about.

13. **Grumbling/Ingratitude**: especially toward God, father and mother

14. **False accusation**: especially blame-worthy

15. **Spreading gloom**: Singing songs with a heavy heart. Failure of cheerfulness.

16. **Hurtful joking**: Prov 26:19

(Not a complete list- limited for time)

1. Repeat "euphemism"

2. The spark in your eye first

3. Don't go along

4. Help people see the "fire" and trust in other ways of speaking

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1. Reject "expressionism"
2. The speck in your eye first
3. Don't go along
4. Help people see the life and truth in other ways of speaking

Our speech is a great power for good

Wisdom is knowing our purpose

Virtue is living in line with that purpose  
(rather than "crooked")

**Virtues of a godly tongue:**

1. **Powerful:** Conspires of love to provide love - forgiveness, does it keep bringing it up, etc.
2. **Healing:** Speaks healing words
3. **Wise:** Applies of the good, the honorable, good, beautiful, and not the extreme
4. **Wise:** Heals the rift and the division, to a unifier peace for the good
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(also not complete for love)

Your vocal chords are your super power

Are you a hero or a villain?

Which do you want to be?

## 2. Learn the virtues of wise speech

Learning to speak according to our divine purpose  
and with creation's fabric.

**Our speech is a great power for good**

Wisdom is **knowing** our purpose

Virtue is living **in line** with that purpose



(rather than "crooked")

## Virtues of a godly tongue:

1. **Peacemaking:** Covers over offense to promote love - forgiveness, doesn't keep bringing it up, etc.
2. **Healing:** Speaks healing words
3. **Noble:** Approves of the good, true, honorable, godly, beautiful - and not the converse
4. **Wise Rebuke:** Truthful and wise correction, to a receptive person for their good
5. **Faithful carrying of another's message:** not adding or taking away - and maintaining the tone
6. **Powerfully gentle:** Wields enough power to break a bone with gentle words. "a gentle tongue can break a bone." (25:15)
7. **Is grateful, cheerful and humorous:** Speaks with sensitivity - doesn't "sing songs to a heavy heart", expresses gratitude to people that served them (for example, parents).
8. **Prudent:** Listens and considers carefully before speaking, will not speak through an untrustworthy messenger
9. **Restraint:** Knows when not to speak or speak too much
10. **Temperate:** Does not flair up in anger and become defensive, argumentative or quarrelsome.
11. **Intimate/discretion:** Does not betray a confidence - uses absolute discretion

(also not complete for time)



**Your vocal chords are your super power**

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**Romans 3:12-14**

12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless, there is no one who does good, not even one! (Psalms 14:1-3; 53:1-3; Ecclesiastes 7:20)

13 Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit. (13 Psalm 5:9)

The poison of vipers is on their lips. (Psalm 140:3)

14 Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness. (Psalm 10:7)

**James 3:6-9**

The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness.

# 3. Jesus the Word gave his life to make our words life-giving

**Matthew 12:34**

Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.

**Matthew 27:39**

Those who passed by hurled insults at him.

**Look at the narrative of Christ's death**

You will find:

Lies, venom, hatred, legalism, offense, taunting, mocking, false testimony, quarrelsomeness, rash pledges, flattery, boasting, ingratitude, gloating and contentment, butting in by possibility, etc.

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