

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?

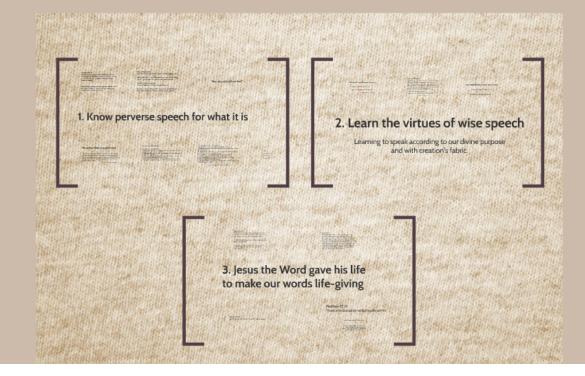
Why do sales people make a point to repeat your name and compliment you?

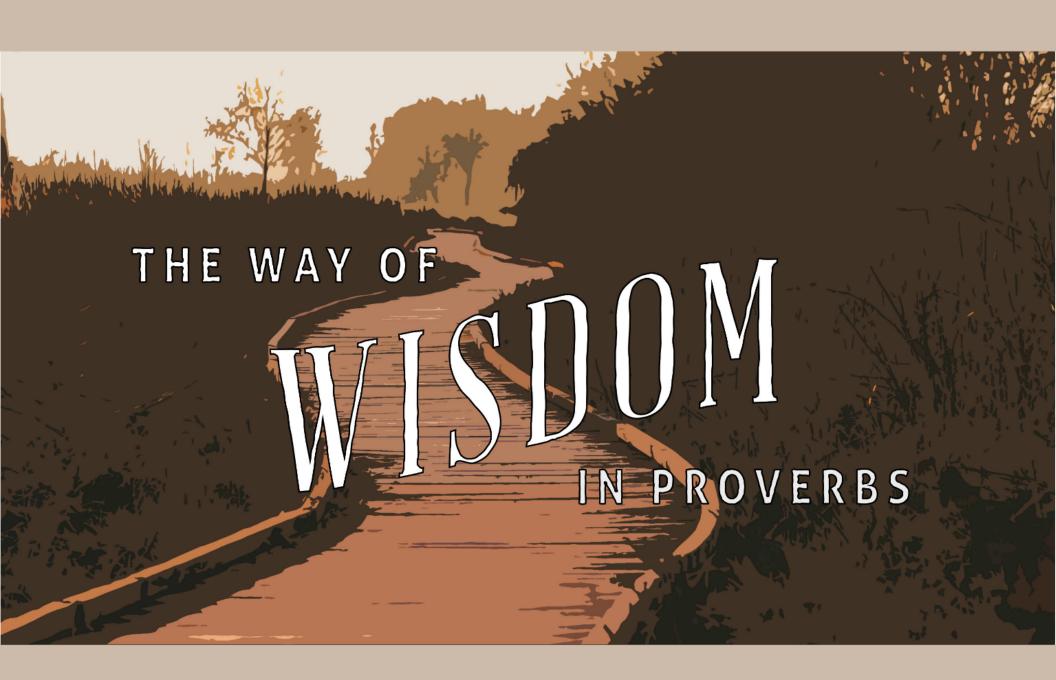
Proposition

Jesus gives life through mouths of honorable expression

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







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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

"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 seems 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.

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 worst to vice without restraint especially in anger-but
 also incurring words, satesain mocking, etc.
 3. Real; yown/lying-Speaking, prefixing or vowing rachity- or all speaking before
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 6. Filterity 4 board 4

- 7. Reckless words: "Pierce like a sword" 8. Slander/slur: To attack someone in front of others (Psalm 19.3)
- 9. Gloating/Contempt: Showing contempt for failure-and gloating in success Q. Glosting/Contempt: Showing contempt for failure-and glosting in success-spower the price between 26.17 (Like one who selzes adag by the ears is a passer-by who meddes in a quarrel not his own.

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

 12. Gossip/betrayal of a confidence harts the pessit is about.

 13. Grunbling fing attude: especially braward God, father and mother 14 false accusation: especially barreworthy.

 15. Spreading doorn. Splings ongs with a heavy heart. Failure of cheerfulness.

 16. Hurtful Joking: Prov 26.19

(Not a complete list-limited for time)

3. Don't go along

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**."

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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/lying: Speaking, promising or vowing rashly or all speaking before real consideration/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/slur: To attack someone in front of others (Psalm 15:3)
- 9. **Gloating/Contempt:** Showing contempt for failure-and gloating in successes 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 blameworthy
- 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. 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



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

Are you a hero or a villain?

Which do you want to be?

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, replies 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 deadily poison. With the tongue we praise our bord 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 27:39

Those who passed by hurled insults at him.

Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.

Look at the narrative of Christ's death

You will find:

Lies, venorn, hatred, legalism, offense, taunting, mocking, faise testimony, quaneborneriess, rash pledges, flattery, boasting, ingratitude, gloating and

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Matthew 12:34

Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.

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Look at the narrative of Christ's death

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