

WISE & FOOLISH SPEECH

A fool's mouth lashes out with pride,
but the lips of the wise protect them. (14:3)

The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly,
but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness. (15:2 NKJV)

The lips of the wise scatter knowledge,
and the heart of fools is not right. (15:7 YLT)

The hearts of the wise make their mouths prudent,
and their lips promote instruction. (16:23)

The lips of fools bring them strife,
and their mouths invite a beating.
The mouths of fools are their undoing,
and their lips are a snare to their very lives. (18:6-7)

Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity
than a rich man who is perverse in his speech and is a [self-confident] fool. (19:1 AMP)

My son, if your heart is wise, then my heart will be glad indeed;
my inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak what is right. (23:15-16)

inspire 
kindness

All scripture references are from Proverbs. NIV translation unless noted.

RIGHTEOUS & WICKED SPEECH

The tongue of the righteous is choice silver,
but the heart of the wicked is of little value.

The lips of the righteous nourish many,
but fools die for lack of sense. (10:20-21)

From the mouth of the righteous comes the fruit of wisdom,
but a perverse tongue will be silenced.

The lips of the righteous know what is fitting,
but the mouth of the wicked only what is perverse. (10:31-32)

With their mouths the godless destroy their neighbors,
but through knowledge the righteous escape...

Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted,
but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed. (11:9, 11)

Evildoers are trapped by their sinful talk,
and so the innocent escape trouble.

From the fruit of their lips people are filled with good things,
and the work of their hands brings them reward. (12:13-14)

From the fruit of their lips people enjoy good things,
but the unfaithful have an appetite for violence. (13:2)

The heart of the righteous weighs its answers,
but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil. (15:28)

A wicked person listens to deceitful lips;
a liar pays attention to a destructive tongue. (17:4)

APPROPRIATE SPEECH

A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger. (15:1)

A person has joy in making an apt answer,
and a word spoken at the right moment—how good it is! (15:23 AMP)

The wise in heart are called discerning,
and pleasant words promote instruction. (16:21)

Gracious words are a honeycomb,
sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. (16:24)

Wise words satisfy like a good meal;
the right words bring satisfaction. (18:20, NLT)

Like apples of gold in settings of silver
is a word spoken in right circumstances. (25:11 NASB)

The one who blesses his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning,
it will be counted a curse to them. (27:14 NKJV)

CONTROLLED SPEECH

In the multitude of words sin is not lacking,
but the one who restrains their lips is wise. (10:19 NKJV)

The prudent keep their knowledge to themselves,
but a fool's heart blurts out folly. (12:23)

Those who guard their lips preserve their lives,
but those who speak rashly will come to ruin. (13:3)

The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint,
and whoever has understanding is even-tempered.
Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent,
and discerning if they hold their tongues. (17:27-28)

He who answers a matter before he hears the facts
—it is folly and shame to him. (Prov. 18:13 AMP)

Those who guard their mouths and their tongues
Keep themselves from calamity. (21:23)

Through patience a ruler can be persuaded,
and a gentle tongue can break a bone. (25:15)

A lying tongue hates those it hurts,
and a flattering mouth works ruin. (26:28)

Whoever rebukes a person will in the end gain favor
rather than one who has a flattering tongue. (28:23)

Those who flatter their neighbours are spreading a net for their feet. (29:5)

GOSSIP

Whoever conceals hatred with lying lips
and spreads slander is a fool. (10:18)

He who despises their neighbor has no sense,
but the one who has understanding holds their tongue.
A gossip betrays a confidence,
but a trustworthy person keeps a secret. (11:12-13)

The words of the reckless pierce like swords,
but the tongue of the wise brings healing. (12:18)

A perverse person stirs up conflict,
and a gossip separates close friends. (16:28)

The words of a gossip are like choice morsels;
they go down to the inmost parts. (18:8)

A gossip betrays a confidence;
so avoid anyone who talks too much. (20:19)

Without wood a fire goes out;
without a gossip a quarrel dies down. (26:20)