



March 7, 2021

Proverbs 18:2(ESV)

A fool takes no pleasure in understanding,
but only in expressing his opinion.

Proverbs 18:6–7

⁶A fool's lips walk into a fight,
and his mouth invites a beating.

⁷ A fool's mouth is his ruin,
and his lips are a snare to his soul.

Proverbs 18:21

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

Proverbs 10:11

The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life,
but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

Proverbs 15:1–2

¹A soft answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.

² The tongue of the wise commends knowledge,
but the mouths of fools pour out folly.

James 3:4–12

⁴ Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Foolish Tongue Brings Ruin

James 3:4–5

Proverbs 18:2

Proverbs 18:6–7

¹⁸ The one who conceals hatred has lying lips,
and whoever utters slander is a fool.

¹⁹ When words are many, transgression is not lacking,
but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.” Proverbs 10:18–19

Proverbs 15:1

“A 2010 research project studying 33 Toronto junior high and high schools reported that 49.5 per cent of students surveyed had been bullied online.” — *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*

“Boys are more likely to experience direct forms of bullying (physical aggression) while girls experience more indirect forms of bullying including cyberbullying.” — *Public Health Agency People of Canada, 2008*

“God has given us two ears, but one tongue, to show that we should be swift to hear, but slow to speak. God has set a double fence before the tongue, the teeth and the lips, to teach us to be wary that we offend not with our tongue.” — *Thomas Watson*

“Constant complaints remind us that we keep sticking ourselves in the center of our worlds, making life all about us.” — *Paul Tripp*

2. The Wise Tongue Brings Life

³¹The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom...

³²The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable.” Proverbs 10:31–32

Proverbs 15:1–2

“Wisdom is knowing when to speak your mind and when to mind your speech.” — *Author Unknown*

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today.’” Hebrews 3:13

3. How to Tame the Tongue

- a. Give our tongue to the Lord each and every day
- b. Pray that God would give us an awareness of our words
- c. Surrender your right to complain
- d. Repent and ask forgiveness for our foolish tongues
- e. Practice speaking life

James 3:9–12