

Steve Whitacre

**SESSION 3 | STICKS AND STONES MAY BREAK
MY BONES, BUT WORDS CAN
FLAT OUT KILL ME
OR
WHAT DOES PROVERBS
HAVE TO SAY ABOUT WORDS?**

I. INTRODUCTION

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.”
(Proverbs 18:21)

**What does Proverbs have to say about words?
Words are powerful, so wield words wisely.**

- 1 A 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.
- 3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.
- 4 A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.
- 5 A fool despises his father’s instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is prudent.

II. WISE WORDS ARE STREET SMART

Proverbs 18:6, “A fool’s lips walk into a fight, and his mouth invites a beating.”

III. WISE WORDS ARE SPIRITUALLY SMART

Proverbs 15:2 helps us see how wise words are spiritually smart. Verse 2 says, “The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly.”

Our words REVEAL our souls.

“For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” (Matthew 12:34).
“But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person.” (Matthew 15:18).

“The tongue is so much more than what we actually say out loud. In fact actual speech is probably only a small percentage of the use of the tongue. We cannot think without formulating thoughts in words...” J. Alec Motyer, *James*, 121.

Our words SHAPE our souls.

IV. WISE WORDS ARE SEEN BY THE SAVIOR

Chiasm:

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

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

C (3) “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.”

A' (4) A **gentle tongue** is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

B' (5) A **fool** despises his father's instruction, but whoever *heeds reproof* is *prudent*.

“If we have this for a foundation truth, that there is more mercy in Christ than sin in us, there can be no danger in thorough dealing.” Richard Sibbes, *The Bruised Reed*.



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