

The Book of PROVERBS
Chapters 15
“The Heart of Wisdom!”

(v1-2) How to communicate?

- ***Soft answers turn away wrath*** - Example: Kind words, gentleness of speech, edification of others, ***“Blessed are the peacemakers” (Ephesians 4:29-32 - Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.)***

- ***Harsh words stir up anger*** - **Waving the Red Flag**: First of all, it’s important to avoid certain “red flag” words or phrases. Any of the following is guaranteed to raise your mate’s hackles, and you’ll probably be in for combat rather than a productive conversation:

- 1- **“Always” (“You always forget to take out the garbage.”)**
- 2- **“Never” (“You’re never ready on time.”)**
- 3- **“Why don’t you ever . . .” (“Why don’t you ever listen to me?”)**
- 4- **“That figures! (I.e., “I should have expected you’d do something dumb.”)**
- 5- **“Never mind” (“You wouldn’t understand anyway.”)**
- 6- **“You’re just like your mother!” (or father)**
- 7- **“Remember the time you . . .”¹**

Philippians 2:14-16 - *Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life.*

- ***The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly*** - Paul in Acts ch. 23:1-11

(v3) *The eyes of the LORD are in every place* - God’s omnipresence (everywhere) - Acts 17:16-34

(v4) A wholesome tongue vs. a perverse tongue - A tree of life or a broken spirit.

(v5) Parental instruction:

#1- Show your children faithful obedience to the Lord by the example of your walk (Deut. 6:5-7)

#2- Teach (instruct) your children God’s Word and His way whenever you are with them during the daily routine of life (2 Tim. 3:16)

#3- Increase the responsibilities of your children based on their demonstrated and increasing faithfulness and capabilities (Mt. 25:14-29)

#4- Establish simple, clear cut guidelines and consequences as God did in directing His people. (Deut. 11:26-28)

#5- Carry out discipline in a loving manner in order to restore your child while there is hope. (1Cor. 13:4-8)

- a) If a child remains foolish (as shown by continued disobedience and disrespect), use the rod as a tool for **restoration**, not as a punishment (Pro. 22:15)
- b) If a child repents of his wrongdoings, exercise gracious **compassion** as God does for those who sin and repent (Ps. 103:10-14).²

(v6) *The house of the righteous is much treasure* - Personally & Materially

(v7) *Wise Christians disperse knowledge!*

(v8-9) *God delights in those who pray & loves those who follow righteousness!*

¹ Secrets of a Growing Marriage, Roger & Donna Vonn, pg. 67

² Self Confrontation, John Broger, pg. 279-278

(v10-12) Discipline, Hell, Destruction, Isolation for the rebellious and scoffing.

(The word *Gehenna* occurs 12 times in the New Testament. Each time it is translated as "hell." With the exception of James 3:6, it is used only by Jesus (Matt 5:22,29-30; 10:28; 23:15,33; Mark 9:43,45,47; Luke 12:5). In Matt 5:22; 18:9; and Mark 9:47, it is used with "fire" as "hell fire." So the word hell (*Gehenna*) as a place of punishment is used in the New Testament by Him who is the essence of infinite love.

In Mark 9:46 and 48, hell is described as a place where "their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched." Repeatedly Jesus spoke of outer darkness and a furnace of fire, where there will be wailing, weeping, and gnashing of teeth (Matt 8:12; 13:42,50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30; Luke 13:28). Obviously this picture is drawn from the valley of Gehenna.

The Book of Revelation describes hell as "a lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Rev 19:20; 20:10,14-15; 21:8). Into hell will be thrown the beast and the false prophet (Rev 19:20). At the end of the age the devil himself will be thrown into it, along with death and hades and all whose names are not in the Book of Life. "And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever" (Rev 20:10b.)

(v13-15) Results of a healthy heart - Merriment brings cheerful emotions & years of satisfaction! A learning heart brings understanding.

(v16-17) A little of God is greater than an abundance of this world!

(v18-21) Sinful ways of man: Anger—Laziness—Foolishness—Undiscerning (without knowledge).

(v22-24) Righteous ways of man: Seeks Godly counsel—Shares Godly counsel—Godly counsel Saves!

(v25-27) Results of the Unrighteous: Pride, Wickedness & Greed—Destruction, Abomination & Trouble.

(v28-30) Results of the Righteous: Studies how to answer; Prayers are heard; Rejoicing heart & healthy bones.

(v31-33) Results of the Humble: Dwells among the wise; Gets understanding and is honored!
(1 Peter 1:22-2:3- *Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because "All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you. Therefore, laying aside all malice, all guile, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*)