

The Way of Wisdom 7 Watch Your Words

The book of Proverbs has a lot to say about how we manage our words. How use our words shapes our relationships. It pays to watch our words and consider what we should say, before we say it.

We should first consider not saying anything at all.

We don't have to say everything we know.

"A person of knowledge uses words with restraint." (Proverbs 17:27)

We also don't have to say everything we think.

"Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent." (Proverbs 17:28)

And we don't have to repeat everything we hear.

"A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends." (Proverbs 16:28)

"He who covers an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends." (Proverbs 17:9)

We should consider whether or not we have all the facts.

"He who answers before listening—that is his folly and his shame." (Proverbs 18:13)

We should consider the best way to say what needs to be said.

“A person finds joy in an apt reply—and how good is a timely word.”
(Proverbs 15:23)

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

Conclusion:

“The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.” (Proverbs 18:21) Words have tremendous power, and we need to make sure we use them carefully.

“The one who guards their lips guards their life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.” (Proverbs 13:3)

“When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.” (Proverbs 10:19)