

# Communication and Community

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*The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

Proverbs 18:21

Listen: Wisdom is calling!

# Communication and Community

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*Reckless words pierce like a sword,  
but the tongue of the wise brings  
healing. 12:18*

Listen: Wisdom is calling!

# Communication and Community

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

**10:11**

Listen: Wisdom is calling!

# The power of speech to destroy community . . .

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A. Reactionary Speech    12:13-25

B. Alienating Speech    18:6-8; 16:28

The power of speech to destroy community . . .

## A. Reactionary Speech 12:13-25

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### Defensiveness

*The way of a fool seems right to him,  
but a wise man listens to advice.*

12:15

The power of speech to destroy community . . .

## A. Reactionary Speech 12:13-25

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Easily annoyed

*A fool shows his annoyance at once,  
but a prudent man overlooks an insult.*

12:16

The power of speech to destroy community . . .

## A. Reactionary Speech 12:13-25

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Dishonesty

*A truthful witness gives honest testimony, but a false witness tells lies.*

12:17

The power of speech to destroy community . . .

## A. Reactionary Speech 12:13-25

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Insensitivity

*A prudent man keeps his knowledge to himself, but the heart of fools blurts out folly. 12:23*

The power of speech to destroy community . . .

B. Alienating Speech 18:6-8; 16:28

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*A scoundrel plots evil, and his speech  
is like a scorching fire.*

*A perverse man stirs up dissension,  
and a gossip separates close friends.*

16:27-28

The power of speech to destroy community . . .

B. Alienating Speech 18:6-8; 16:28

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Stirring up controversy

*A hot-tempered man stirs up  
dissension, but a patient man calms a  
quarrel. 15:18*

The power of speech to destroy community . . .

B. Alienating Speech 18:6-8; 16:28

Gossip

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*Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down. As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife. The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man's inmost parts.*

26:20-22

# The power of speech to build community . . .

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A. Appropriate speech      15:1, 23, 28

B. Truthful speech      16:13; 8:6-9

The power of speech to build community . . .

A. Appropriate speech      15:1, 23, 28

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The response matches the situation.

*The lips of the righteous know what is fitting, but the mouth of the wicked only what is perverse.      10:32*

The power of speech to build community . . .

A. Appropriate speech      15:1, 23, 28

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The response is not hasty.

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

The power of speech to build community . . .

A. Appropriate speech      15:1, 23, 28

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The response is timely.

*A man finds joy in giving an apt  
reply— and how good is a timely word!*

15:23

The power of speech to build community . . .

B. Truthful speech.      16:13; 8:6-9

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Truth from a right motive.

*He who loves a pure heart and whose  
speech is gracious will have the king  
for his friend.      22:11*

The power of speech to build community . . .

B. Truthful speech.      16:13; 8:6-9

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Truth without exaggeration.

*A lying tongue hates those it hurts,  
and a flattering mouth works ruin.*

26:28

The power of speech to build community . . .

B. Truthful speech.      16:13; 8:6-9

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Truth intended to help.

*Like an earring of gold or an ornament  
of fine gold is a wise man's rebuke to a  
listening ear.      25:12*

1. What do your speech patterns reveal about your heart?
2. What relationships currently need to be restored due to your foolish speech?
3. Which speech pattern will you commit to repentance and obedience this week?

**Take Away**

