

WISDOM

CHEAT SHEETS

Today's selection from the Book of Proverbs explores the theme of wise use of the tongue. Notice the difference between the fruit of the wise tongue, and the fruit of a foolish tongue. We are challenged about how we use our words.

10:11 The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

10:19 Sin is not ended by multiplying words, but the prudent hold their tongues.

10:20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver, but the heart of the wicked is of little value.

10:31 From the mouth of the righteous comes the fruit of wisdom, but a perverse tongue will be silenced.

11:9 With their mouths the godless destroy their neighbors, but through knowledge the righteous escape.

11:13 A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.

12:18 The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

12:19 Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.

12:22 The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.

14:3 A fool's mouth lashes out with pride, but the lips of the wise protect them.

15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

15:4 The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.

15:23 A person finds joy in giving an apt reply—and how good is a timely word!

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

16:23 The hearts of the wise make their mouths prudent, and their lips promote instruction.

16:24 Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

17:27 The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint, and whoever has understanding is even-tempered.

17:28 Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent and discerning if they hold their tongues.

18:2 Fools find no pleasure in understanding but delight in airing their own opinions.

18:13 To answer before listening—that is folly and shame.

18:21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

20:15 Gold there is, and rubies in abundance, but lips that speak knowledge are a rare jewel.

24:26 An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips.

26:28 A lying tongue hates those it hurts, and a flattering mouth works ruin.

29:20 Do you see someone who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for them.

James 3:7-12 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig-tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.