

Proverbs on Communication – 2

A. Godly speech is **truthful**.

Lies display a self-centred hatred of others (26:28). Conversely, truthfulness is rooted in love for God and others (Eph 4:15).

B. Godly speech is **edifying**

i) It is solution-oriented, therefore it does not delight in gossip (Proverbs 11:13, 26:22)

ii) It restrains itself to deal with problems__, it does not react to break down people (Proverbs 10:12, 15:1)

iii) It is measured, so as to always build (Proverbs 12:18)

C. Godly speech is **clear**. Clarity is efficiency in conveying intended meaning.

Think before you speak (Proverbs 15:28)

Put a premium on your words – less is better (Proverbs 10:19)

Silence is preferable over poor speech (Proverbs 17:27-28)

Choose the best, most edifying words (Proverbs 15:23)

Be concise and avoid exaggerations (Matthew 5:37)

Examples of things that ruin clarity: rambling, hinting, loaded statements, manipulative statements, silent treatment, diverting, blaming, crocodile tears, irrelevancies, avoiding necessary communication.

D. Godly speech is **well-timed** (Proverbs 15:23, 25:11-12)

Something well-said at the wrong time is as bad as something poorly said.

Beware of seeking effective or intense communication when one is fatigued, hungry, extremely angry (Proverbs 17:14)

On the other hand, do not avoid necessary communication (Proverbs 27:5-6)

E. Godly speech is also **purifying** (Ephesians 4:29). Our speech is to draw others toward Christ, not away from Him.

Applies correction (Proverbs 27:5-6, 12:1, 28:23)

Defiling or polluting forms of speech are:

- destructive criticism (12:18)
- argumentative (15:1, 17:14)
- gossip (Proverbs 11:13)
- murmuring (17:22, 15:15)
- inappropriate humour (Proverbs 26:18-19)
- Insults (Proverbs 3:34)
- flattery (Proverbs 28:23)
- boasting (Proverbs 27:12)
- nagging (Proverbs 27:15)
- revengeful, malicious, wrathful (10:12)