

# IMPACT

**I** **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday  
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.  
Proverbs 3:5-6

**Passage:** Luke 6:45 “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. *For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks*”

**Quote:** “Keep your words sweet. You may have to eat them.” Unknown

**A**rticulation is “the act of expressing an idea, or thought with words in a way that can be clearly heard and understood.”<sup>1</sup> In Luke 6, Jesus uses a parable about trees being identified and evaluated by their fruit to teach that people are likewise identified and evaluated by their words. In a parallel passage, He gives even more important truths about people and their words. “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit. Brood of vipers! How can you, *being evil, speak good things?* For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For *by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.*”<sup>2</sup>

Jesus makes it abundantly clear that our words are a reflection of our heart. “Words, even carelessly spoken words, are eternally important. Scripture condemns verbal sins such as lies, gossip, or insults as severely as it condemns adultery and murder.”<sup>3</sup> Our speech, our actions, our attitudes, our ambition and even our appearance reveal much about our heart’s condition. I write this as one who is confident that God has saved me by His grace and yet I struggle to honor Him in many of these areas. It is comforting to know that I am in the company of all who suffer through the same daily struggles to think, say and do only those things that glorify God through the enabling of His Spirit.<sup>4</sup>

What do your words reflect about your heart? Someone wisely said, “If your lips would keep from slips, Five things observe with care; Of whom you speak, to whom you speak, And how and when and where.” If

someone talks critically about another person *to you*, the chances are good that he or she will talk critically *about you* to someone else! And we can be certain that, if we talk critically about others, they will talk critically about us. We will reap what we sow!<sup>5</sup>

With God’s enabling, may we honestly evaluate our speech and guard our heart and our tongue!<sup>6</sup>

**Wise speech:** Proverbs 15:2 “The tongue of the wise *uses knowledge rightly*, But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.” 15:4 “A wholesome tongue is a tree of life...” 28 “The heart of the righteous *studies how to answer*, But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.”

**Humble speech:** Proverbs 27:2 “Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.”

**Gracious speech:** Proverbs 16:24 “Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones. 27 An ungodly man digs up evil, and it is on his lips like a burning fire. 28 A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends.” 26:20 “Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; And where there is no talebearer, strife ceases. 21 As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, So is a contentious man to kindle strife.”

**Guarded speech:** Proverbs 17:27 “He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.” 29:11 “A fool vents all his feelings, but a wise man holds them back.” 20 “Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”

**Truthful speech:** Proverbs 19:9 “He who speaks lies shall perish.” 25:9 “Debate your case with your neighbor, and do not disclose the secret to another; 10 Lest he who hears it expose your shame, And your reputation be ruined.”

<sup>1</sup> Webster’s Dictionary <sup>2</sup> Matt.12:33-37 <sup>3</sup> Reformation Study Bible, Matt.5:22, 37; II Cor.12:20; I Tim.1:10; Rev.21:8 <sup>4</sup> David, Psalm 51; Paul, Romans 7:14-25 <sup>5</sup> Eph 4:2,31; Col 3:12; 2Ti 2:24-25 <sup>6</sup> James 3