

Review: Stop lying. Speak the truth in love.

3. THOU SHALT NOT _____ THY _____.

- Make sure you _____ an issue (or what you are hearing) before you _____.

Proverbs 18:13 He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, It is folly and shame unto him.

Too many people think they must give input to show that they understand and are smart. That doesn't come across if you don't stop to consider the issue - and what you'll say in response to the topic or issue at hand.

- **KEY:** _____ listening.

Proverbs 1:5 A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; And a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

- *Pay attention. Make eye contact. Listen to understand.*
- *Let people finish their thoughts.*
- *Rephrase what you're hearing.*
- *Ask questions.*
- *Affirm what you are hearing when possible.*

Your goal is to make sure that you understand before you speak.

James 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, **let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak**, slow to wrath:

4. _____ YOUR THOUGHTS AND SPEECH.

- **Work to _____ you are going to say _____ you say it.**
Sometimes you will have to ask for a pause in the conversation to order your thoughts.

Form your response or argument before you open your mouth.

Proverbs 25:11 A word fitly spoken Is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.

Think about what you want to say before you say it. Be as concise as possible.

Seek to be _____, not just _____.

- Remember the GOAL! **Let all communication edify.**

Biblical tips:

Ephesians 4:29–32 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, **but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.** ³⁰ And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: ³² **And be ye kind one to another,** tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Colossians 4:5–6 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. ⁶ Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

You **should** communicate the hard and right things, but they should also edify the hearer.

Titus 2:6–8 Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. ⁷ **In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works:** in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, ⁸ **Sound speech, that cannot be condemned;** that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

2 Corinthians 3:12–14 Seeing then that we have such hope, **we use great plainness of speech:** ¹³ And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: ¹⁴ But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.

Here we're talking about doctrinal plainness.

But this is good counsel for all that would come out of our mouths.

Be plain, straightforward in your speech.

Ecclesiastes 5:2 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.

1 Corinthians 2:1–5 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. ² For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. ⁴ And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: ⁵ That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.