

When To Keep Your Mouth Shut

Part 2

Introduction.

1. In lesson 1 we began a two-part study on the subject “When To Keep Your Mouth Shut.”

a. We read the words of the wise man Solomon who said:

Eccl 3:7 A time to tear apart and a time to sew together; **A time to be silent and a time to speak.**

b. It is clear from the word of God that there is “a time to be silent.”

2. We studied 17 times when we should keep our mouths shut.

3. James taught the tongue is “a restless evil” and “full of deadly poison.” (Jas. 3:8).

James 3:8 But no one can tame the tongue; {it is} a restless evil {and} full of deadly poison.

4. He also emphasized that controlling the tongue is essential. (Jas. 1:26).

James 1:26 If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and **yet does not bridle his tongue** but deceives his {own} heart, **this man's religion is worthless.** The Greek word “**matiaos**” means “worthless, useless, vain.”

a. David sought to control his tongue. (Psa. 39:1).

Ps 39:1 I said, "I will guard my ways That I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth as with a muzzle While the wicked are in my presence."

1) David recognized it is easy to sin with the tongue.

2) He recognized there are times when we need to “muzzle” our mouths.

b. The writer of the 19th psalm prayed this prayer that we need to frequently pray. (Ps. 19:14).

Ps 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.

1) We need to make sure the words we utter are acceptable in the sight of the Lord.

2) This demands we exercise caution in the words we speak.

3) It means there are times we must keep our mouths shut.

c. The person who always speaks his/her mind will frequently sin with the tongue and bring disgrace upon Christ, the church and himself.

5. Last week we studied seventeen times we should keep our mouths shut.

1. **Let us not open our mouths in the heat of anger.** (Prov. 14:17).
2. **Let us not open our mouths when we do not have all the facts.** (Prov. 18:13).
3. **Let us not open our mouths when we have not verified the story.** (Deut. 17:6).
4. **Don't open your mouth if your words will offend a weaker brother.** (1 Cor. 8:11).
5. **Don't open your mouth if your words will be a poor reflection of the Lord or your friends or family.** (1 Pet. 2:21-23).
6. **Don't open your mouth if you are tempted to joke about sin.** (Prov. 14:9).
7. **Don't open your mouth when you should or would be ashamed of your words later.** (Prov. 8:8).
8. **Don't open your mouth when you are tempted to make light of holy things.** (Eccles. 5:2).
9. **Don't open your mouth if your words are hurtful and unloving.** (Prov. 17:17).
10. **Don't open your mouth if the issue is none of your business.** (1 Pet. 4:15, 16).
11. **Don't open your mouth with grumbling words when unhappy with God.** (1 Cor. 10:10).
12. **Don't open your mouth when you have asked a question.**
13. **Don't open your mouth when others need to speak.**
14. **We need to keep our mouths shut when silence itself speaks louder.**
15. **We need to keep our mouths shut when we sound like "a know it all."**
16. **We need to keep our mouths shut when basically saying "I told you so."**
17. **We need to keep our mouths shut when silence will do better.**

6. In this lesson we will study thirteen additional times "When To Keep Your Mouth Shut."

Thirteen Additional Times To Keep Our Mouths Shut

1. **Don't open your mouth when you are tempted to tell a lie.** (Prov. 4:24).

Prov 4:24 Put away from you a deceitful mouth And put devious speech far from you.

- a. Lying to others is a strong temptation and regular practice of many people in the world and even a common practice of many Christians.
- b. This was a big problem in the 1st century church especially for those who had just come into Christ.
- c. Lying was an habitual habit of non-Christians and many who had come into Christ had a very hard task of shaking this sinful, shameful, disgusting habit.
- d. Paul admonished Christians in the church of Ephesus and the church at Colossae to stop lying. ((Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9).

Eph 4:25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE {of you} WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.

Col 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its {evil} practices,

e. God hates lying lips. (Prov. 6:16-19).

Prov 6:16 There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

Prov 6:17 Haughty eyes, **a lying tongue**, And hands that shed innocent blood,

Prov 6:18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil,

Prov 6:19 **A false witness {who} utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.**

2. Don't open your mouth if your words will damage someones's reputation. (Prov.16:27).

Prov 16:27 A worthless man digs up evil, While his words are like scorching fire.

- a. Lies most often are very harmful and "a worthless man" digs up evil or invents evil things about others.
- b. Lies can and often destroy the reputation and lives of others.
- c. They can discourage others and cause them to lose heart and even fall away from the faith.
- d. The Golden Rule should keep our mouths from uttering lies about others and even make us very cautious that we do not even speak the truth with the motive of destroying others.

3. Don't open your mouth if your words will destroy a friendship.

- a. Spreading lies about a friend or becoming angry with a friend is a quick way to destroy a friendship.
- b. Friends build up one another and encourage one another - never seek to harm one another!
- c. There are times when jealousy and envy control our mouths rather than the love of Christ!

4. Don't open your mouth when you are feeling critical. (Jas. 3:9).

James 3:9 With it [the tongue] we bless {our} Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;

- a. Criticism is something even Christians are strongly tempted to utter.
- b. We really need to pray before we criticize others.
- c. We may regard it as good and needed, but it can be very destructive to others.
- d. **Most of us are not very receptive to criticism**, but we erroneously think others should be!

5. Don't open your mouth if you cannot speak without yelling. (Prov. 25:28).

Prov 25:28 {Like} a city that is broken into {and} without walls Is a man who has no control over his spirit.

- a. When angry we really need to zip our lips!!!
- b. It is so easy to utter mean, crazy, harmful things when anger and the devil control us.

c. We give the devil the opportunity to hurt and destroy relationships by yelling. (Eph. 4:26,27).

Eph 4:26 BE ANGRY, AND {yet} DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger,
Eph 4:27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.

6. Don't open your mouth when it is time to listen to one's parents. (Prov. 13:1).

Prov 13:1 A wise son {accepts his} father's discipline, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

- a. There is a time to listen and accept the discipline of a father without speaking words that are shameful in response.
- b. Discipline is not pleasant, but neither is it an excuse to speak angry and shameful things to the one doing the discipline.

7. Don't open your mouth if you may have to eat your words later. (Prov. 18:21).

Prov 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, **And those who love it will eat its fruit.**

- a. Nearly all of us have uttered words that we regret speaking and would give anything if we had not said them.
- b. Words can and do destroy others.
- c. Words can also build others up and bring out the very best in them.
- d. This is what we should be doing "bringing out the best in others."

8. Don't open your mouth to say the same thing over and over again [then it becomes nagging]. (Prov. 19:13).

Prov 19:13 A foolish son is destruction to his father, **And the contentions of a wife are a constant dripping.**

- a. Nagging, saying the same thing over and over again, irritates and angers others.
- b. It rarely has good results and usually creates anger on the part of others. **No one likes to be nagged!**

9. Don't open your mouth when you are tempted to flatter a wicked person. (Prov. 24:24).

Prov 24:24 He who says to the wicked, "You are righteous," Peoples will curse him, nations will abhor him;

- a. There is often a strong temptation to flatter a wicked person of power and influence.
- b. This is especially true when it brings something good to us.

A promotion	Social acceptance
Material gain	Being included in a desired social group.

10. **Don't open your mouth when you are supposed to be working instead.** (Prov. 14:23).

Prov 14:23 In all labor there is profit, But mere talk {leads} only to poverty.

Prov. 14:23 Those who work hard make a profit. But those who just talk will be poor. IEB

- a. Many people love to talk and frequently substitute talking for work.
- b. There is a time to speak, but speaking must not interfere with the work that needs to be done.

11. **Don't open your mouth when you are tempted to speak corrupt [rotten, unfit, worthless] things.** (Eph. 4:29).

Eph 4:29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such {a word} as is good for edification according to the need {of the moment,} so that it will give grace to those who hear.

- a. We live in a world that is full of corruption of all kinds
- b. Christians have been called out of this corruption to live a life to the glory of God and Christ.
- c. It is hard to break old habits and it is hard not to conform to the corruption of the world!
- d. Corrupt speech is common in the world and it is nigh impossible for a Christian to avoid exposure to it.
- e. Our speech must be wholesome and we need to keep our mouths shut when tempted to speak corrupt, rotten, unfit, unwholesome things.
- f. Paul said our speech must be "good for edification [building up] according to the need {of the moment}."
- g. "So that it will give grace to those who hear." "Grace" has the meaning of "blessing."

12. **Don't open your mouth to take the name of God in vain.** (Exod. 20:7).

Ex 20:7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.

- a. Many people take God's name in vain by cursing God or using God's name as a part of their sinful profanity.
- b. God said, "for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain."
- c. This commandment was also a stern warning against taking false oaths in the name of God. (Lev.19:12).

Lev 19:12 'You shall not swear falsely by My name, so as to profane the name of your God; I am the LORD.

- d. Some avoided using God's name in their oaths, but deceitfully swore by other things.
- e. Jesus dealt with this sinful practice in His sermon from the mount. (Matt. 5:33-37).

Matt 5:33 "Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FALSE VOWS, BUT SHALL FULFILL YOUR VOWS TO THE LORD.'

Matt 5:34 "But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,
Matt 5:35 or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING.

Matt 5:36 "Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

Matt 5:37 "But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' {or} 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil.

- f. We know from the example of Jesus and the rest of the New Testament that it is not always wrong to take an oath, but we should keep our mouths shut when tempted to swear by things we deem less sacred than the name of God.
- g. Jesus Himself took an oath before the Sanhedrin. (Matt. 26:59-63).

Matt 26:59 Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus, so that they might put Him to death.

Matt 26:60 They did not find {any,} even though many false witnesses came forward. But later on two came forward,

Matt 26:61 and said, "This man stated, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to rebuild it in three days.'"

Matt 26:62 The high priest stood up and said to Him, "Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?"

Matt 26:63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, "I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God."

- 1) Jesus refused to answer the Sanhedrin that had already made up its mind that Jesus was guilty of blasphemy and of claiming to be able to destroy the temple and "rebuild it in three days."
- 2) He refused to answer until He heard the voice of adjuration from the High Priest.
- 3) This was a method of putting a person under oath and it was sinful not to respond to the voice of adjuration. (Lev. 5:1).

Lev 5:1 'Now if a person sins after he hears a public adjuration {to testify} when he is a witness, whether he has seen or {otherwise} known, if he does not tell {it,} then he will bear his guilt.

- 4) Jesus, being placed under oath, answered the high priest. (Matt. 26:64).

Matt 26:64 Jesus said to him, "You have said it {yourself;} nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN."

- 5) The high priest understood Jesus' response to be an affirmation of His claim to be the Son of God and charged Him with blasphemy that called for the death penalty. (Matt. 26:65-66).

Matt 26:65 Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, you have now heard the blasphemy;

Matt 26:66 what do you think?" They answered, "He deserves death!"

- 6) Paul occasionally called upon God to be his witness. (Rom. 1:9; 2 Cor. 1:23; Phil. 1:8).

Rom 1:9 For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the {preaching of the} gospel of His Son, is my witness {as to} how unceasingly I make mention of you,

2 Cor 1:23 But I call God as witness to my soul, that to spare you I did not come again to Corinth.

Phil 1:8 For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

h. What is the point of all this as related to this lesson?

1) When tempted to make oaths, we should keep our mouths shut.

2) We should obey the words of Jesus. (Matt. 5:37).

Matt 5:37 "But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' {or} 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil.

3) When we speak it should always be the truth and must keep our mouths shut if we are tempted to utter anything false.

13. **Don't open your mouth to bad mouth elders and preachers.**

a. This hurts weaker members and leads to discouragement and even apostasy.

b. It drives children away from the Lord.

c. No elder or preacher is perfect and may, at times, need constructive criticism done in love.

d. This criticism must be exercised with great caution to avoid destroying the faith of others.

Conclusion.

1. We should always keep in mind these words of Solomon. (Prov. 21:23).

Prov 21:23 He who guards his mouth and his tongue, Guards his soul [life, himself] from troubles.

2. We should always keep in mind these words of Jesus. (Matt. 12:36-37).

Matt 12:36 "But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.

Matt 12:37 "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

a. These words should really make all of us cautious about the words we speak.

b. These words are not meant to make us fearful of speaking.

c. They are intended to give us strong encouragement and motivation to be cautious in the use of our tongues and speak the things that make the world, the church, the home and our lives better.

d. Sometimes my greatest accomplishment of the day is keeping my mouth shut.

