

Proverbs: Lessons from the Wisdom of Solomon
Our Words Matter
Proverbs 13:1-25

There is nothing which seems more insubstantial than speech, a mere vibration in the atmosphere which touches the nerves of hearing and then dies away. There is no organ which seems smaller and less considerable than the tongue; a little member which is not even seen, and physically speaking, soft and weak. But the word which issues out of the lips is the greatest power in human life.

1. _____ your words
 - A. The _____ tongue
 - B. The _____ tongue
 - C. The _____ tongue
2. _____ your words
 - A. We should speak _____
 - B. We should speak _____
 - C. We should speak _____
3. _____ your words
 - A. To provide _____
 - B. To provide _____
 - C. To provide _____

Jesus chose His words carefully. Every time He spoke, He said something significant, something worth listening to. Of the seven sayings of Christ from the cross, perhaps the most significant for us was, "It is finished." In these words, we are offered atonement for our sins and victory over the things (including our speech) that keep us from enjoying our relationship with God.

Reflection

How is the "sticks and stones" rhyme inaccurate? In our world of seemingly increasing uncivility, how can you avoid being a negative and argumentative person? Are there times when you are tempted to justify your own sin while critiquing the sins of others? Why is flattery so dangerous and gossip so tempting? Take some time to carefully and honestly consider the words you use and the attitudes with which you use them. Repent where repentance is needed and strengthen the positive use of words by intentionally encouraging others this week.