**Living Wisely – Pr. 17**

**Focal Truth: Silence is better than sinful words**

**Observations**

1. **Silence is better than fighting words – 17:1**

*Better is a dry morsel and quietness with it than a house full of feasting with strife*

*Better a dry crust with peace, than a house full of feasting with strife - Aramaic*

1. The sinful listens to wicked lips – 17:4
2. The liar listens to destructive words – 17:4
3. The mocker of the poor taunts God – 17:5
4. The fools words are never excellent – 17:7

**Consider – Fighting words are words of strife!**

Gal. 5:20 – *idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions…*

Pr. 6:12 – *a worthless person, a wicked man, is one who walks with a perverse mouth*

Pr. 6:14 – *who with perversity in his heart continually devises evil, who spreads strife.*

Pr. 6:16, 19 – *there are six things which the Lord hates, yes seven which are an abomination to Him…a false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers*

Pr. 10:12 – *hatred stirs up strife*

Pr. 13:10 – *through insolence comes nothing but strife*

Pr. 15:18 – *a hot-tempered man stirs up strife*

Pr. 16:28 – *a perverse man spreads strife, a slanderer separates friends*

Pr. 18:6 – *a fool’s lips bring strife*

Pr. 20:3 – *keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, any fool will quarrel*

1. **Silence is better than gossip – 17:9**

*He who conceals a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends*

*He who seeks love overlooks faults, but he who harps on a matter alienates his friends*

*Aramaic*

1. Silence of words is concealing feelings about people & circumstances

Pr. 25:2 – *it is the glory of God to conceal a matter*

1. Silence of words expresses love to others – **we never know the whole story so why tell anyone the story!**
2. Gossips never conceal their words

Pr. 16:28 – *a slanderer separates intimate friends*

2 Tim. 3:1 -3 – *…unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips…*

Tit. 2:3 – *older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips*

Pr. 20:19 – *he who goes about a slanderer reveals secrets, therefore do not associate with a gossip*

1. A godly rebuke does good for one with understanding but nothing for fools – 17:10
2. **Silence is better than foolish speech – 17:27 – 28**

*He who restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding. Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is considered prudent*

*A knowledgeable man is sparing with his words; a man of understanding is reticent. Even a fool, if he keeps silent, is deemed wise; Intelligent, if he seals his lips – Aramaic*

1. Controlling speech – when to be silent & when to speak reveals knowledge
2. Controlled speech – reveals a cool or self-controlled spirit & understanding
3. Silent fools are thought wise because they refrain from foolish speech
4. The one who speaks with perverted words falls into evil – 17:20

**Consider**

Pr. 14:7 – *leave the presence of a fool, or you will not discern words of knowledge*

Ecc. 10:12 – 14 - *words from the mouth of a wise man are gracious, while the lips of a fool consume him; the beginning of his talking is folly and the end of it is wicked madness. Yet the fool multiplies words. No man knows what will happen, and who can tell him what will come after him?*

James 1:19 – *but everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger*