

Saying It Well: Speaking Truth with Love

The wisdom of Proverbs applied to communication in marriage

Death-dealing words are...

Hasty

- 12:18** Reckless words pierce like a sword,
but the tongue of the wise brings healing.
- 18:13** He who answers before listening —
that is his folly and his shame.

Harping

- 10:19** When words are many, sin is not absent,
but he who holds his tongue is wise.
- 19:13** A foolish son is his father's ruin,
and a quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping.
- 21:19** Better to live in a desert
than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife.

Hurtful

- 15:1** A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.
- 29:11** A fool gives full vent to his anger,
but a wise man keeps himself under control.

Hidden

- 20:5** The purposes of a man's heart are deep waters,
but a man of understanding draws them out.
- 27:5** Better is open rebuke than hidden love.

Life-giving words are...

Heart-felt

8:33 Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not ignore it.

27:9 Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart,
and the pleasantness of one's friend springs from his earnest counsel.

Honouring

25:15 Through patience a ruler can be persuaded,
and a gentle tongue can break a bone.

22:11 He who loves a pure heart and whose speech is gracious
will have the king for his friend.

Honest

16:13 Kings take pleasure in honest lips;
they value a man who speaks the truth.

28:23 He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favor
than he who has a flattering tongue.

Healing

12:18 Reckless words pierce like a sword,
but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

16:24 Pleasant words are a honeycomb,
sweet to the soul and healing to the bones