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Living As A Christ-Follower In A World Of Chaos.

We live in a verbally hostile world. Whether it is spoken or typed, aggression seems to get all the attention.

But how are we as followers of Christ supposed to live and engage a society like this? Does that mean we never say anything?

¹⁹ ***This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.*** James 1:19-20

Listeners are learners.

**27 He who restrains his words has knowledge,
And he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.
28 Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise;
When he closes his lips, he is *considered* prudent.**
Proverbs 17:27-28

**He who separates himself seeks *his own* desire,
He quarrels against all sound wisdom.
2 A fool does not delight in understanding,
But only in revealing his own mind.** Proverbs 18:1-4

**3 When a wicked man comes, contempt also comes,
And with dishonor *comes* scorn.**

**4 The words of a man's mouth are deep waters;
The fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook.**

Proverbs 18:1-4

**Make your ear attentive to wisdom,
Incline your heart to understanding;
Proverbs 2:2**

**We must ask ourselves are we simply
trying to win an argument or win a
person?**

Do I want to make a point or make a difference?

**As followers of Christ, our goal is to
win souls not arguments.**

Learners are heard.

We cannot listen and speak at the same time.

Slow to speak...

Words Matter.

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

²⁹Let 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. Ephesians 4:29

**The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer,
But the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.
Proverbs 15:28**

There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the tongue of the wise brings healing.
Proverbs 12:18

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

Slow to speak...Gives you time to think about your words and intentions.

Relationships Matter.

**Am I saying this out of anger? Am I saying this to hurt?
What's my motivation for the language, tone and
expression I'm using?**

**Speak carefully and articulate exactly
what you intend to say.**

**Say what you mean and mean what
you say.**

Tone makes a difference.

**Seek to draw closer to others not to
push them away.**

**He who separates himself seeks *his own* desire,
He quarrels against all sound wisdom.
2 A fool does not delight in understanding,
But only in revealing his own mind. Proverbs 18:1-2**

Meaningful conversations are about connecting, not simply correcting.

⁵Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. ⁶Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person. Colossians 4:5-7

Timing Matters.

**11 *Like apples of gold in settings of silver
Is a word spoken in right circumstances.***

**12 *Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold
Is a wise reprobation to a listening ear.* Proverbs 25:11-13**

**13 Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest
Is a faithful messenger to those who send him,
For he refreshes the soul of his masters.**

Proverbs 25:11-13

A time to be silent and a time to speak. Ecclesiastes 3:7b

⁶For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Romans 5:6

Hearts Matter.

³⁹.And He also spoke a parable to them: “A blind man cannot guide a blind man, can he? Will they not both fall into a pit? ⁴⁰A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher. ⁴¹

⁴¹ Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?

⁴²Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye?

You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

⁴³For there is no good tree which produces bad fruit, nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit. ⁴⁴For each tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush.

⁴⁵**The good man out of the good treasure of his heart
brings forth what is good; and the evil *man* out of the
evil *treasure* brings forth what is evil; for his mouth
speaks from that which fills his heart.**

Slow to anger...

**Don't let anger control the
conversation.**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not *turn* your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, Galatians 5:13-15

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 15 But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Galatians 5:13-15

19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, Galatians 5:19-21

21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19-21

**How's your heart these days? Are you
cancelling others? Are you cancelling
yourself without even knowing it?**

**Listen and to be Heard. Speak the
Truth in Love. Use your Influence to
Win people for Christ.**

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