

Let Us Imitate Jesus by Controlling Our Speech
(1 Peter 2:21-22)

Introduction:

1. These verses teach Christians to follow the Lord's example.
2. In our lesson we are especially interested in the fact that no "*guile*" [deceit] was found in the Lord's mouth -- in other words, Jesus controlled His speech.
3. To help people see Jesus in us we must follow His example.
4. We are examining a number of passages that deal with "controlling our speech."
5. Let us begin by showing that . . .

Discussion:

- I. CONTROLLING OUR SPEECH IS EMPHASIZED IN PROVERBS 10:19
 - A. The first part of this verse mentions "*the multitude of words.*"
 1. This refers to an uncontrolled tongue.
 2. Where an uncontrolled tongue exists, sin will not be wanting.
 - B. The latter part of this verse mentions one who "*refrains*" [restrains, controls] his lips.
 1. One who "refrains his lips" is said to be "*wise.*"
 2. Not only is such a person wise, but he will also avoid the sins associated with a multitude of words.
 - C. By making this contrast in Proverbs 10:19, Solomon stressed the importance of controlling our speech many years before Jesus came in the flesh.
- II. THE SCRIPTURES CLEARLY CONDEMN UNCONTROLLED SPEECH
 - A. (Proverbs 8:13b) The Lord hates a "*froward*" [perverted] mouth.
 - B. (Proverbs 13:3b) "Destruction" is in store for a person who opens wide his lips.
 - C. (Matthew 12:36-37) We will be judged by our words.
 1. We will give an account of the words that we speak.
 2. We will either be justified or condemned by our words.
 - D. (James 1:26) Religion that is accompanied by an unbridled tongue is "*vain.*"
 - E. Examples of sinful speech: backbiting, blasphemy, cursing, gossip, lying, railing, slander, whispering, being a busybody, etc.
- III. GREAT BLESSINGS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH CONTROLLED SPEECH
 - A. (Proverbs 13:3a) One who "*keeps*" [guards] his mouth keeps his life.
 - B. (Proverbs 17:27-28) Wisdom is associated with controlled speech.
 - C. (1 Peter 3:10) Those who control their speech will enjoy long life and see good days.
- IV. INSTRUCTIONS THAT WILL HELP US CONTROL OUR SPEECH
 - A. Let us remember that God is aware of the things we say (Psalm 139:4).
 - B. Let us listen to the Lord's instructions (Psalm 34:13).
 - C. Let us determine to control our speech with the Lord's help (Psalm 39:1).
 - D. Let us learn to differentiate between times to speak and times to be silent (Ecclesiastes 3:7).
 - E. Let us keep the right things in our hearts (Matthew 12:34-35).
 - F. Let us practice the admonition given in Ephesians 4:28.

Conclusion:

1. God has blessed us with the ability to speak.
2. Let us use this blessing in a way that pleases Him.
3. By doing so we will help others to see Jesus.