



Changing the Track of Your Words

- Words are either going to build up or tear them down.

Matthew 15:15-20 (NIV)

Peter said, "Explain the parable to us." ¹⁶ "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. ¹⁷ "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? ¹⁸ But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them."

- Our words are an overflow of our heart.

Proverbs 10:19 (ESV)

When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.

- Think before you speak.

Proverbs 13:3 (ESV)

Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.

- Listen *before* you speak and listen *more* than you speak.

- There are two things we need in order to be wise in listening.

- * We need *Jesus*, and
- * we need his body, the *church*.

Proverbs 15:1–2 (ESV)

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. ² The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly.

- When we speak up, build up.

II Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!