

The words of the reckless pierce like swords,
but the tongue of the wise brings healing. 12:18

A person finds joy in giving an apt reply—
and how good is a timely word! 15:23 (Dick and Carol)

A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger. 15:1

Anxiety weighs down the heart,
but a kind word cheers it up. 12:25

The soothing tongue is a tree of life,
but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit. 15:4 (OBSTINATE, CONTRARY)

NOT SELF-HELP MANUAL; SKILLFUL LIVING LEADS TO COMMUNITY
GOSSIP, FLATTERY, BRAGGING

The LORD detests lying lips,
but he delights in people who are trustworthy. 12:22

If a ruler listens to lies,
all his officials become wicked. 29:12

The proud and arrogant person—“Mocker” is his name—
behaves with insolent fury. 21:24 (Mocker 16 x)

Whoever corrects a mocker invites insults;
whoever rebukes the wicked incurs abuse.
⁸ Do not rebuke mockers or they will hate you;
rebuke the wise and they will love you. 9:7-8

Drive out the mocker, and out goes strife;
quarrels and insults are ended. 22:10

Eliminate Toxic Talk.

Jesus an exemplar. Jesus before Pilate: What is truth? I am the truth.

Jesus also the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. He offers conversion, even to Pilate.

We have to abhor lies and mockery. Proverbs teaches us not to accept such practices. But in Jesus we go beyond, to offer transformation, the forgiveness of sins. Our words are the words of grace, our words are the words of life.