Wisdom and Stability | Proverbs 29:20; 21:23
Pastor Bill Curtis | April 30, 2017

**Sermon Notes**

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**Stable Speech: Speaking because you fear the Lord.**

1. **The fool:**
* **self-control**
* **in speech**
1. **The peaceful wise man:**
* **self control**
* **in speech**

**Journey Group Questions**

1. Spoken and written words have an enormous influence and impact on our lives and the lives of others. Read James 3:3-6 and answer the following questions.

	1. What are the two illustrations of verses 3-4, and what do these illustrations say about the role of words and their ability to steer the entire direction of your life?
	2. How does the use of words serve as a measure of self-control? On a scale of 1-10 (10 is best), how would you rate your self-control based on your use of words?
	3. What is the illustration of verse 5-6, and what is the warning associated with this illustration?
	4. Has your own fiery, rash, or hasty speech (spoken or written) ever set your life, or the life of someone else, on fire? How could that speech-wildfire have been avoided?
	5. How does fiery-speech contrast with how wise-speech is described in this week’s sermon? (Prov. 21:23; 29:11)?
2. Spoken and written words are routinely used for both good and evil, but wise men and women should strive for consistently wise speech. Read James 3:7-12 and answer the following questions.

	1. What are the two illustrations of verses 11-12, and what do these illustrations say about the relationship of the heart and speech?
	2. Why is it so important to have consistent, grace-filled speech?
	3. In what ways does inconsistent, mixed message speech which includes both helpful and harmful words (i.e. social media rants, gossip, hypocrisy, etc.) undermine your testimony as a follower of Christ?
	4. What specific steps can you take to stop the flow of harmful words springing forth from your heart?
	5. How can you help other people under your influence to do the same?