

Proverbs 10:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness.

Analysis

The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked speaks frowardness. The righteous possess discernment about appropriate speech - knowing what, when, and how to speak. The wicked speak perverseness habitually. This knowledge isn't merely intellectual but practical wisdom applied to communication. Such discernment flows from wisdom rooted in the fear of God.

Historical Context

Concludes Proverbs 10 by returning to speech ethics theme introduced in v.11. Ancient oral culture particularly valued skill in appropriate speech as essential wisdom.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do you develop discernment about what speech is acceptable in various contexts?
2. What helps you recognize when your speech is becoming froward or perverse?

Interlinear Text

שְׁפָתִים יְדִיקָה יְדַעַת בְּצָבֵל בְּלִפְנֵי רַעַם

The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable but the mouth of the wicked

H8193 H6662 H3045 H7522 H6310 H7563

תְּהִפְכּוֹת:

speaketh frowardness

H8419

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 15:28 (Righteousness): The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.

Proverbs 12:6 (Evil): The words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood: but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them.

Proverbs 12:18 (Parallel theme): There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.

Proverbs 2:12 (Evil): To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things;

Proverbs 11:11 (Evil): By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.