

Proverbs 13:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.

Analysis

Guarding speech preserves life, while rash talk invites destruction. The mouth's control demonstrates self-discipline reflecting the Spirit's fruit. Unbridled speech reveals ungoverned heart, while measured words show wisdom's restraint.

Historical Context

In courts and councils, careless speech could result in death sentences or political downfall. Even in daily life, unguarded words destroyed relationships and reputations.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How carefully do you consider your words before speaking?
2. What recent rash speech brought negative consequences you could have avoided?

Interlinear Text

נֶצַר	פִּי יוֹ	שֹׁמֵר	נַפְשׁוֹ	פִּשְׁקוֹ	שֵׁן פִּתּוֹ יוֹ
He that keepeth	his mouth	keepeth	his life	but he that openeth wide	his lips
H5341	H6310	H8104	H5315	H6589	H8193
מְחַתָּה	לִוִּי				
shall have destruction	H0				
H4288					

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 21:23 (Parallel theme): Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

Proverbs 18:21 (Parallel theme): Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Proverbs 18:7 (Parallel theme): A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.

Psalms 39:1 (Parallel theme): I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me.

Proverbs 10:19 (Parallel theme): In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.

Proverbs 20:19 (Parallel theme): He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.

James 1:26 (Parallel theme): If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridlenth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

Proverbs 12:13 (Parallel theme): The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble.