

Proverbs 26:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.

Analysis

A lying tongue hates those it crushes, and a flattering mouth works ruin. The Hebrew 'lashon sheqer' (lying tongue) and 'peh chalaq' (smooth/flattering mouth) describes comprehensive speech corruption. Lies crush victims and reveal hater's heart. Flattery ruins by deceiving and manipulating. Both lying and flattering destroy - one through obvious attack, other through subtle manipulation. This warns: destructive speech takes multiple forms. Guard against both obvious lies and subtle flattery.

Historical Context

Proverbs extensively condemns both lying and flattery. Psalm 12:2-3 says: 'They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak. The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things.' Jesus condemned Pharisees for hypocrisy - saying one thing, meaning another. James 1:26 teaches: 'If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.'

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What lying or flattering speech have you used to crush or manipulate others?
2. How can you recognize both obvious lies and subtle flattery directed at you?
3. What commitment to truthful, sincere speech would eliminate both lying and flattering from your communication?

Interlinear Text

לְשׁוֹן	שֶׁ קָרָא	אִשָּׁנָה	אֵלֶּיךָ יְיָ	וּפִי	וּלְקַלְקֵל
tongue	A lying	hateth	those that are afflicted	mouth	by it and a flattering
H3956	H8267	H8130	H1790	H6310	H2509

יַעֲשֶׂה ה'	מְדַחֵה:
worketh	ruin
H6213	H4072

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 6:24 (Parallel theme): To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.

Proverbs 29:5 (Parallel theme): A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet.

Proverbs 7:5 (Parallel theme): That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words.

John 8:40 (Parallel theme): But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.