

“A Time To Keep Silence”

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

“A Time To Keep Silence”

- ▶ The judicious use of our tongues is always to our benefit ... and to those around us
- ▶ We are admonished:
 - ▶ Proverbs 17:28 – “Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise”
 - ▶ Proverbs 26:4 – “Answer not a fool according to his folly”
- ▶ A common saying from the past, “Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt”

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When We Don't Know All The Facts

- ▶ Proverbs 18:13 – “... answer before he hears”
- ▶ Proverbs 18:17 – “until the other comes ...”

When It Is None Of Our Business

- ▶ John 21:21-22 – “what is that to you?”
- ▶ I Thessalonians 4:10-11 – “... mind your own affairs”
- ▶ I Peter 4:15 – “... as a meddler”
- ▶ II Thessalonians 3:10-12 – “... busybodies”

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When Our Words Would Destroy A Friendship

- ▶ Proverbs 16:28 – “... a whisperer separates close friends”
- ▶ Proverbs 17:9 – “... separates close friends”
- ▶ Don't say anything about anybody that you wouldn't want to get back to them
- ▶ But, also, don't take offense at everything
 - ▶ Ecclesiastes 7:21-22 – “Do not take to heart all the things that people say”

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When Our Words Would Damage A Reputation

- ▶ Proverbs 16:27 – “A worthless man plots evil”
- ▶ Even if a matter is true we must ask:
 - ▶ “Is it kind?”
 - ▶ “Is it necessary?”
 - ▶ “Will it help?”
- ▶ cf. I Corinthians 13:7 – “Love ... believes all things”

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When We Have Said It Many Times Before

- ▶ Proverbs 19:13 – “... a continual dripping ...”
- ▶ Proverbs 27:15-16 – “A continual dripping ...”
 - ▶ Husbands can be just as guilty ... and parents to children
- ▶ Is the repetition productive?
 - ▶ Ephesians 4:29 – “... only such as is good for building up”

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When It's Time To Listen

- ▶ Proverbs 13:1 – "A wise son hears his father's instruction"
- ▶ James 1:19 – "... quick to hear, slow to speak"
- ▶ Ezekiel 3:14-15 – "... I sat there overwhelmed among them seven days
 - ▶ He had listened to the words of God and was now ready to speak

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When It's Time To Work

- ▶ Proverbs 14:23 – "mere talk tends only to poverty"
- ▶ John 9:4 – "We must work the works of him who sent me ..."
- ▶ Nehemiah 2:17-18 – "Let us rise up and build"
- ▶ Nehemiah 4:6 – "... the people had a mind to work"

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- ▶ When we don't know all of the facts
- ▶ When it's none of our business
- ▶ When our words would destroy a friendship
- ▶ When our words would damage a reputation
- ▶ When we have said it many times before
- ▶ When it's time to listen
- ▶ When it's time to work

May God give us the wisdom to know when to keep silence

Obeying The Gospel

Hear the Word of God

- James 1:21 – "... receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."

Believe the Gospel message about Jesus

- I John 3:23-24 – "... that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ ..."

Obeying The Gospel

Repent of your sins

- Acts 3:19 – "Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out"

Confess that Jesus is the Son of God

- Romans 10:9-10 – "... with the mouth one confesses and is saved"

Obeying The Gospel

Be immersed in water

- Acts 2:38 – "Repent and be baptized every one of you ..."

Remain faithful

- I Corinthians 15:1-2 – "if you hold fast to the word I preached to you – unless you believed in vain"