

# AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION

(STAYING OUT OF TROUBLE)

Proverbs give instruction in a succinct, pointed form making them easy to remember.  
The Apostles used O.T. proverbs. 2Pe.2:22. (Pro.26:11)  
All cultures, including our own, have proverbs. Many of the modern proverbs convey  
a message similar to proverbs found in the Bible.  
“Prevention” proverbs, especially those inspired of God, are very helpful.

## Preventing Sinning With the Tongue

- 10:19 **An abundance of words invites transgressions.**  
It's wise to refrain from telling all you know.
- 18:2 **Talk long enough and you're bound to say something wrong.**  
17:27-28 **Restrain your words.**  
*You can't afford to offer someone a piece of your mind.*
- 12:18 **Rash words cut like swords.**  
Control of the tongue is to be learned, and re-learned. Pro.21:23  
Become expert in listening. Jam.1:19.  
*Be sure your brain is engaged before putting mouth into gear.*
- 18:13 **It is foolish to answer before hearing the whole matter.**  
Don't jump to confusion.  
It's difficult to undo damage.  
Become expert in reserving judgment.  
*You can't un-shoot a gun.*
- 29:20 **There is no hope for one with hasty words.**  
*Act in haste, repent at leisure.  
Hasty words guarantee trouble.*

## Preventing Strife

- 15:1 **A soft answer turns away wrath. (:4)**  
No talent is needed to use abusive speech.  
*Choose what you say, rather than say what you choose.*
- 14:29, 15:18 **Slow to anger; not hot temper.**  
Losing your temper is a sign of weakness.  
*People who fly into a rage make crash landings.*
- 26:4-5 **Answer a fool according to his folly.**  
Don't dignify a foolish question with a serious response.

## Preventing Misplaced Values

- 15:16 **Better little with the Lord.**  
15:17 **Better vegetables with love.**  
Material possessions have price tags.  
The price may be more than what a Christian can afford.  
It may cost the loss of peace, integrity, honesty, worship, faith, soul. 1Ti.6:9-11
- 22:1 **A good name better than riches.**  
Don't sell your soul to the devil.

## Preventing Pride (Boasting)

- 27:2 **Let another praise you.**  
Conceit doesn't flatter a person.  
Look at Scriptures for an accurate image of yourself. Jam.1:23-25  
*Don't toot your own horn.*

## Preventing Problems with Friends

- 15:28 **Ponder how to answer.**  
Words are the chief source of trouble in relationships.  
Sinning with the tongue is difficult to prevent. Jam.3:2  
Consider the one who must hear what you have to say.

- 16:32      **Slow to anger.**  
 Friction is an inseparable part of contact.  
 Distinguish between what should be ignored and what must be addressed.  
 Friction need not turn into turmoil. Jam. 1:19-20
- 25:17      **Put your foot rarely in your neighbor's house.**  
 Respect the privacy of others.
- 26:17      **Don't meddle in another's strife.**  
 Interlopers are seldom welcomed.  
 The other person may interpret your offer to help as interference.  
 If invited to be involved, proceed with caution, if at all.  
*Most people would rather fix the other person's wagon.*

## Preventing Making a Fool of Yourself

- 14:7      **Leave the presence of a fool.**  
 Associating with foolish people clouds and distorts your understanding.  
 Keep company with the wise, so that whatever rubs off is beneficial.

## Preventing Misdirection

- 14:12      **A way that seems right.** (16:25)  
 We think we know what is best, but we may be wrong.  
 Don't rely on "think-so's". Trust only in "know-so's."

## One Last One (In Psalms)

- Psa 7:12-16    Evil has a way of coming back to you.  
*"It's all gonna come back on you."*

## Thank God, We Have Wisdom from above to Guide Us Away from Trouble

- We have our Lord to thank for His help and forgiveness.  
 Our prayer should be: "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil."  
 Mat.6:13
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*Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

James 3:13-18