



Have you heard about...?

Proverbs 26:17-22

What to say; What NOT to say

- ▶ We must be careful what we say
- ▶ There are times we should control our tongue and not say anything
- ▶ Learn that not everything you know, hear or see is appropriate to share with others.

What to say; What NOT to say

- ▶ But no one can tame the tongue, *it is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.
James 3:8
- ▶ Put yourself in the other person's shoes before you speak.
- ▶ Would you want this told to others?

3 Guidelines from Proverbs 22:17-22

- ▶ 1 Learn when you should mind your own business
- ▶ Proverbs 26:17 He who passes by enraging himself over strife not his own *is like* one who takes a dog by the ears,
- ▶ Dog's ears are sensitive - don't yank their ears - a gentle dog may bite you

3 Guidelines from Proverbs 22:17-22

- ▶ 1 Learn when you should mind your own business
- ▶ Proverb - Let sleeping dogs lie.
- ▶ It is easy for us to “stick our nose” in the business of others

3 Guidelines from Proverbs 22:17-22

- ▶ 1 Learn when you should mind your own business
- ▶ Matthew 7:3-5 - Beam and splinter
- ▶ 1 Thessalonians 4:11 and that you try earnestly to be quiet and to do *your* own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you.

3 Guidelines from Proverbs 22:17-22

- ▶ 2 Be considerate of the feelings of others
- ▶ Proverbs 26:18-19 *or* like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death. So *is* the man who deceives his neighbor and says, Am I not joking?
- ▶ Know the impact (firebrands, arrows, death) of your speech

3 Guidelines from Proverbs 22:17-22

- ▶ 2 Be considerate of the feelings of others
- ▶ Proverbs 18:21 Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue, and those who love it shall eat the fruit of it.
- ▶ You can't justify it by claiming it was a joke

3 Guidelines from Proverbs 22:17-22

- ▶ 3 Never, ever repeat gossip
- ▶ Proverbs 26:20-22 Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; and where *there is* no talebearer, the fighting ceases. 21 As coals to burning coals, and wood to fire, so *is* a quarrelsome man to kindle fighting. 22 The words of a talebearer *are* as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

3 Guidelines from Proverbs 22:17-22

- ▶ 3 Never, ever repeat gossip
- ▶ No wood = fire goes out
- ▶ No gossip = fighting ceases
- ▶ Gossip Hurts - There are wounds, deep hurt, intense pain

Remember these guidelines

- ▶ **1 - Learn when you should mind your own business**
- ▶ **2 - Be considerate of the feelings of others**
- ▶ **3 - Never, ever repeat gossip**

Tempted to listen to gossip?

- ▶ Sometimes we hear when we did not want to listen to it.
- ▶ Solution: Just interrupt them with - I am afraid that might get into gossip.
- ▶ Call it what it is - GOSSIP
- ▶ When you identify it as GOSSIP it will stop.

THIS IS IMPORTANT

- ▶ What we say can determine our eternity.
- ▶ **Matthew 12:36-37** But I say to you that every idle word, whatever men may speak, they shall give account of it in the day of judgment. 37 For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned.