

FREE SPEECH: TO HEAL, NOT TO WOUND



1

One of the great freedoms we have in America is the freedom of speech. Read Galatians 5:13. How are we supposed to use our freedoms as followers of Christ?

2

Read Proverbs 12:18. We are all guilty of using our words to wound others, rather than to heal. What's an example of a time when you wish you could've gotten your words back?

3

We can limit our reckless words by thinking before we speak. Read Proverbs 17:27-28 and James 1:19. Why is it difficult for us to be slow in our response to others?

(We lack self-control, in our pride we want to be heard ~ Prov. 18:2, we let our emotions control our actions and words, etc.)

4

Read Philippians 2:3-4. How often do you truly stop to consider other people's interests before you speak to them? How would that change the way you speak to people?

5

Read Proverbs 27:5-6. Why should we trust the 'wounds from a friend'?

(We all need correction, admonishment, and 'wounds' from friends when we've lost our way. Good friends help us to correct our course.)

6

When is an appropriate time to 'faithfully wound' a friend?

(1. Are they seriously dishonoring God? 2. Has something they've said or done permanently damaged a relationship? 3. Have you or someone else been hurt by their actions? 4. Are they causing harm to themselves?)

7

How should you use your words when correcting a friend?

(Speak honestly ~ Eph. 4:25, speak gently ~ Prov. 15:1, and seek their benefit ~ Eph. 4:29.)