

Pure Silver

'The tongue of the righteous is pure silver' (Prov. 10.20), but many leaders fail to think clearly or carefully about their words. James tells us that not many should presume to be teachers, because of the difficulty of taming the tongue (James 3). This seminar will help Christian leaders think carefully about what godly speech is and how to nurture it for the building of others and glory of Christ.

Adrian Reynolds serves as Associate National Director for the FIEC with particular responsibility for training, including developing leaders. Following a career as a senior manager in the pharmaceutical industry, he served as pastor of Yateley Baptist Church and then as a Director of The Proclamation Trust. Adrian is the author of twelve books, including *And Then He Knew Her: A Biblical View of Sex*; *Teaching Numbers: From Text to Message*, and *Progress: Lifelong Growth for Christian Workers*. He is a visiting lecturer at a number of colleges and writes for Ligonier in the USA. Adrian serves on an international mission board and chairs two UK Christian organisations: *Evangelicals Now* (a newspaper) and *Discipleship Tech* (which owns the PrayerMate app). He is married to Celia and they have three daughters, two of whom are married.

I. The importance of speech (James 3)

A. Positively

B. Negatively

II. Speech and Proverbs

A. "Deep waters" = general truths

B. "A gold ring" = correcting

C. "Gold apples in silver settings" = showing restraint

D. "A kiss on the lips" = honesty

E. "A sharp arrow" = lying

F. “The honeycomb” = gentleness

G. “Stoking the flames” = gossiping

H. “Setting the city alight” = mocking

III. For discussion

A. What is your besetting sin when it comes to speech?

B. What damage might it do?

C. What benefit would avoiding it bring?

D. What are the particular methods you use to communicate and what are the strengths and weaknesses of each of these?

E. How does the gospel make a difference?

F. How does the example of Jesus help us?

Further reading:

Gospel speech online, Windsor, Lionel (Sydney, Australia: Matthias Media)