

Are you Listening?

READ:

James 1:19 - My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.

Proverbs 18:2, 13 – A fool finds no interest in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions. To answer before listening is foolish and shameful.

REFLECT:

What do these verses tell us about listening?

What do these verses tell us about speaking our ideas to others?

There are many times we don't listen because we think others should be listening to us. We think our view is right without even hearing and trying to understand someone else. The first step in understanding another person is listening to them and their story. We do not want to be like the fool that is not interested in understanding. Instead we should desire to seek out knowledge so we can understand others.

We also need to be careful of what and who we are listening too. The best starting place to find wisdom is God's Word and the Gospel of Christ. We need to use the Bible as the way to filter what we hear so we can understand if what we are hearing is the truth.

We need to stop and think before we act. Being slow to speak helps us make sure the words coming out of our mouths are honoring to God and helpful to others. Our words have the power to give life or death (Proverbs 18:21)

RESPOND:

When are you tempted to not listen to others but instead speak quickly?

How can you be careful to listen to voices that honor God, bring unity and peace?

Pray that God would help you STOP and think before you speak. Ask him to help you listen to God honoring voices and be a person who seeks to understand others. Then remember Proverbs 18:21 and speak life into the lives of others.

Thank God for _____

Pray for _____