



Eagle Vision Partner Letter

“Discretion: the Art of the Wise”

August 2003

Dear Partner,

I pray that you are walking in the benefits of having a godly attitude.

This month we are going to talk about discretion. Discretion should be a character trait of every Christian. You may think, well that's not a true statement. Everyone has a different personality and being discreet is not part of everyone's personality. It's true that everyone does have a different personality, but that does not exclude us from certain characteristics that we should all possess as a Christian. For example kindness, honesty and so on.

Let's first define discretion. My personal definition of discretion is knowing when to speak and when not to speak; to know what to say, when to say it and how to say it. Discretion also means the quality of being discreet; exercising sound judgment in practical matters; cautious in conduct; managing carefully. Merriam Webster defines discreet as showing good judgment, capable of observing prudent silence. Another dictionary defines it as careful about what one says or does.

Being a Christian means being like Christ (The Anointed One). Anyone that is anointed has the ability to remove burdens and destroy yokes (**Isaiah 10:27**). Can you imagine Jesus being anything other than discreet? Can you see Him going around saying things that were unnecessary or untimely or out of order? Everything that He said or did was with purpose and was motivated by love. I heard a statement from a minister that has been in the ministry for over 30 years say that one of the biggest problems that he's seen in the Body of Christ is that Christians talk to much.

Do you know anyone that you would consider discreet? Stop for a minute and think. What qualities does this person possess that would cause you to place them in that category? Let's look at the perfect example of someone who is discreet and let's see what He has to say about knowing what to say, when to say it and how to say it.

First, in **Matthew 12:34-37**, Jesus is teaching about words. In verse 36 He says "...every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof..." The word idle in the Greek means inactive, useless, barren. He goes on to say in verse 37 that we are either justified or condemned by our words. These verses show us that we definitely need to use discretion before we speak.

How is it that Jesus always knew what to say? According to **John 12:49**, Jesus said "For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment what I should say and what I should speak." He was sensitive to hear the Father tell Him what to say.

But you may say "But I don't hear God speak to me." (As a side note, Pastor Harold did an awesome teaching on Twelve Biblical Ways to Hear from God.) Do you believe the Bible is true? If you said, "Yes." then notice Jesus says in **John 10:27** His sheep hear His voice and they follow Him. So this scripture shows us that we have the ability to know His voice and follow Him, just as Jesus did. In **John 14:10**, Jesus tells us that the words that He spoke came from the Father and that His words and actions (works) go together. **Ecclesiastes 3:1,7** says "To everything there is a season a time to every purpose under the heaven...a time to keep silence and a time to speak." **Proverbs 10:19** in the Amplified says, "In the multitude of words transgression (sin) is not lacking, but he who restrains, his lips is prudent (discreet)."

The following are **Seven Benefits of Being Discreet:**

1. You please God by following His voice and obeying His word. In **Titus 2:5** it says that Christian women should be discreet and in verse 6 it says that Christian men should be discreet. The word sober in verse 6 means discreet.
2. Others will trust you and enjoy being around you.
3. Those in authority over you will promote you (on your job and/or in your church).
(**Gen. 41:33,38-41**)
4. You will walk in God's Wisdom. (**Prov. 19:11**) (**Prov. 17:28**)(**Prov. 29:11,20**)
5. It's attractive. **Proverbs 11:22** is saying that it is unattractive if you are not discreet, then we know that it is attractive to be discreet.
6. It will preserve you. (**Prov. 2:11**)
7. You will walk in the knowledge of God's Word and have an excellent spirit. (**Prov. 17:27**)

This week, practice being more discreet. Consult the Holy Spirit before you speak. He'll let you know if and when you should speak, what to say and how to say it. Obey His promptings. Pray this prayer with me out loud:

Father, I ask You right now to help me guard my mouth with diligence. Help me to be more discreet in my words and actions. Help me not to speak idle words. Let the words of my mouth and my thoughts be acceptable in Your sight. I thank you that the Holy Spirit will lead and guide me to walk in God's wisdom. He also will remind me that you are listening to everything that I say. Help me to not speak when I shouldn't and to speak when I should. I yield myself to You and I ask You to speak to me and speak through me. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

Now expect God to honor that prayer and He will! He will lead you, but you must follow.

In His Service,

Deirdre S. Council
Co-Pastor

P.S. Please take the time to look-up all the scriptures listed in the 7 Benefits. I **KNOW** that they will bless you!!

Pastors Harold & Deirdre will begin an exciting and life-changing teaching on "**The Godly Family**" beginning Sunday, August 10, 2003. We will be discussing subjects such as 'How to Raise Godly Children', 'How to Have a Successful Marriage', 'The Single Life' & 'How to Bounce Back After Divorce'.