Proverbs 12:17-18 (ESV) 17 Whoever speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false witness utters deceit. 18 There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Proverbs 12:18 (NIV) Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

1. The Uncontrolled Mouth:

- It is a lying mouth.

   Proverbs 6:16-19 (ESV) 16 There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, 19 a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.

- It is a gossiping mouth.

   Proverbs 18:8 (ESV) The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body.

   Proverbs 17:9 (ESV) Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.

- It is a cursing mouth.

   Proverbs 4:24 (ESV) Put away from you crooked speech, and put devious talk far from you.

   Ephesians 4:29 (ESV) Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

   Ephesians 5:1-4 (ESV) 1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. 3 But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. 4 Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

2. How to Master Your Mouth:

- Be honest.

   Proverbs 24:26 (ESV) Whoever gives an honest answer kisses the lips.

   Proverbs 27:6 (ESV) Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

   Proverbs 27:6 (NIV) Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.
• Be confidential.

Proverbs 11:13 (ESV) Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered.

• Be encouraging.

Proverbs 16:24 (ESV) Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.

Proverbs 25:11 (ESV) A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.

• Be controlled.

Proverbs 18:13 (ESV) If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.

Proverbs 26:4 (ESV) Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself.