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**Fellowship of Companies for Christ
 Greater Hartford Chapter
 R HOUSE Restaurant
 February 1, 2012**

- Opening prayer / praise reports
- FCCI membership and outreach
- Today's topic: **Muzzle That Mouth!**

He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.
–Proverbs 25:28

This passage is about more than “just” our speech, but for today I’m going to focus on the fruit of our lips. When we’re filled with the Holy Spirit, He gives us the supernatural temperance we need. However, in a moment of weakness, humanness, fear, anger, frustration, distress or exhaustion, we can rapidly say things we shouldn’t. Looking at our lives from 30,000 feet, if we are loose cannons with our speech, relationships around us can rapidly break down with employees, customers, prospects, suppliers, peers, and the general public. I’ve had two recent business experiences that challenged me in this area. In one case, I think I took the high ground, in another the low ground. In one case I had rule over my spirit, in the other case I didn’t.

First, a customer’s boss recently came into his office and told him to discontinue doing business with my firm effective January 31, after 21 years! I tried to reach out to this boss, but after three voicemails and two emails. I had to choose my words very carefully, not letting my emotions take me somewhere I shouldn’t go. This boss had the authority to make the decision, and preferred not to talk to me about it. So, what kind of last impression did I want to leave? After all the battle is the Lord’s, not mine.

Second, a client recently hired my firm for an urgent project. We jumped through hoops to create the first draft. I met with him and showed him the draft. After I left, he passed it around to others. The next day, he was condescending and tore what we had done to shreds. With everything else going on, I lost it. *I actually swore and hung up on him.* In my 35-year career, I think that was a first. Yes, I apologized. Yes, I tried to explain the context of my action, but now the project is somewhere in the Twilight Zone. I have no idea where it’s going to end up, and if we’ll get paid.

What about you today? Do you deliberately seek (and ask) to be filled with the Holy Spirit regularly, or do you operate in the flesh? How are the walls of your business relationships doing? It’s more difficult to repair damaged walls than it is to keep them strong and prevent damage in the first place!

Evaluate yourself from 1 (weak) to 10 (strong) in terms of self-control.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits might you enjoy by being more self-controlled?										
What specific actions can you take to be more self-controlled?										

- Upcoming events/news
- Closing prayer