

Taming The Tongue

(Part 2)

James 1:19,26; 3:1-12

“For in many things we all stumble ...” James 3:2

- ▶ Sin is universal (Romans 3:23), YET among all men, the sins of the tongue seem to be most universal and the most difficult to control.
- ▶ **Teachers must be careful for ...**
 - **WHAT** they teach
 - and *cf. Ephesians 6:19; Colossians 4:4-6*
 - **HOW** they teach

Man who tames his tongue is a “*perfect man.*”

Tongue is small but powerful ...
James 3:3-6

- ▶ Illustrations:
 - Bit in horse’s mouth.
 - Small rudder of a great ship.
- ▶ Speak a lie, live a lie.
- ▶ Speak suggestively in an immoral manner, live immorally.

Tongue is small but powerful ...
James 3:3-6

- ▶ *“How much wood is kindled by how small a fire! The tongue is a fire: the world of iniquity among our members is the tongue.”* (James 3:6)
- ▶ Truly, *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue ...”* (Proverbs 18:21)
- ▶ *“An ungodly man digs up evil, and it is on his lips like a burning fire. A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends”* (KJV Proverbs 16:27-28). cf. Galatians 5:15

Difficulty Of Taming The Tongue
– James 3:7-8

- ▶ *“The tongue can no man tame ...”* Hyperbole (of language) deliberately exaggerated.
- ▶ NOTE: **We Must!!!!** (Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6)
- ▶ David said, *“Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile”* and then prayed that God might *“set a watch ... before my mouth, and keep the door of my lips”* (Psalms 34:13; 141:3).
- ▶ Peter wrote, *“For he that would love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile”* (1 Peter 3:10).

Difficulty Of Taming The Tongue
– James 3:7-8

- ▶ *“It is a restless evil ...”* Unstable. Like a caged beast, it seeks opportunity to break forth and cause havoc and destruction.
- ▶ *“It is full of deadly poison ...”*
 - *“They have sharpened their tongue like a serpent; adders’ poison is under their lips”* (Psalms 140:3).
 - Quoting from Psalms 5:9, he uses a similar metaphor: *“The poison of asps is under their lips”* (Romans 3:13).

The perverse tongue is inconsistent – James 3:9–12

- ▶ What arrogance: one looks up to God with blessing, then down to man, made in God's image, with cursing.
- ▶ The Psalmist wrote of those who ***“delight in lies,”*** who ***“bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly”*** (Psalms 62:4).
- ▶ ***“These things ought not so to be.”***

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General Applications:

- ▶ **Swearing.**
 - *“Thou shalt not take the name of Jehovah thy God in vain, for Jehovah will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain”* (Exodus 20:7).
 - *“Bring forth him that cursed without the camp ... and let all the congregation stone him”* (Leviticus 24:14).
 - *“Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth, but such as is good for edifying as the need may be that it may give grace to them that hear”* (Ephesians 4:29).

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General Applications:

- ▶ **Gossiping and Talebearing.**
 - *“Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people ...”* (Leviticus 19:16).

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General Applications:

One's thoughts should pass three gates before they are spoken.

- ▶ **IS IT TRUE?**
 - *“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor”* (Exodus 20:16).
 - *“Lying lips are an abomination to Jehovah ...”* (Proverbs 12:22).
 - God hates *“... a lying tongue”* (Proverbs 6:17).
 - *“Lie not one to another seeing that ye have put off the old man with his doings”* (Colossians 3:9).
 - *“... All liars, their part shall be in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone ...”* (Revelation 21:8).

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General Applications:

One's thoughts should pass three gates before they are spoken.

- ▶ **IS IT NEEDFUL?**
 - *“... A talebearer revealeth secrets ...”* (Proverbs 11:13).
 - *“He that repeateth a matter separateth very friends”* (KJV Proverbs 17:9).

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General Applications:

One's thoughts should pass three gates before they are spoken.

- ▶ **IS IT KIND?**
 - *“The words of a talebearer are as wounds ...”* (KJV Proverbs 18:8).
 - *“And be ye kind one to another ...”* (Ephesians 4:32).

The worthy woman ... *“She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and the law of kindness is on her tongue”* (Proverbs 31:26).

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General Applications:

- ▶ **Murmuring.**
 - *"Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and perished by the destroyer" (1 Corinthians 10:10; cf. Numbers 16 and Numbers 21).*

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General Applications:

- ▶ **Criticism.**
 - Jesus admonished, *"Judge not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment."* (John 7:24).

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General Applications:

- ▶ **Contentious words**
 - *"A soft answer turneth away wrath: but a grievous word stirreth up anger" (Proverbs 15:1).*
 - *"He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city" (Proverbs 16:32).*

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Taming The Tongue

- ▶ **The tongue is a useful and beautiful gift, but we must learn to control it.**
 - *"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer each one" (Colossians 4:6).*
 - *"The tongue of the righteous is as choice silver" (Proverbs 10:20).*
 - *"Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones" (Proverbs 16:24).*
 - *"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in network of silver" (Proverbs 25:11).*

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Taming The Tongue

- ▶ **The tongue, however, is capable of great destruction.**
 - Let us, therefore, watch and pray.
 - *"Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin" (Ecclesiastes 5:6).*
 - *"Set a watch, O Jehovah, before my mouth: keep the door of my lips" (Psalms 141:3).*
 - *"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Jehovah, my rock, and my redeemer" (Psalms 19:14).*

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Taming The Tongue

- **If you want to tame your tongue, then TAME YOUR HEART!**
- Matthew 12:34, *"Ye offspring of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."*

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Taming The Tongue

- ▶ Remember,
 - *“... every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned”*(Matthew 12:36-37).

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