

The Letter of James

1. Opening Address (1:1 - 2)

2. Encouragement during trial (1:2 - 27)

- A. Patience in Trials and Temptations (1:2 - 15)
- B. Being Born in the Word (1:16 - 25)
- C. True Religion (1:26 - 27)

3. Discussion of Themes

- A. Partiality and the Law of Charity (2:1 - 3)
- B. Faith and Works (2:14 - 26)



- C. Taming the Tongue (3:1-12)
- D. Wisdom and Worldliness (3:13 - 4:17)
- E. The Coming of the Lord (5:1 - 12)
- F. Anointing and Prayer for the Sick (5:13 - 18)

4. Conclusion (5:19 - 20)

James 3: 1-12 - THE TONGUE

2148 *Blasphemy* is directly opposed to the second commandment. It consists in uttering against God - inwardly or outwardly - words of hatred, reproach, or defiance; in speaking ill of God; in failing in respect toward him in one's speech; in misusing God's name. St. James condemns those "who blaspheme that honorable name [of Jesus] by which you are called." The prohibition of blasphemy extends to language against Christ's Church, the saints, and sacred things. It is also blasphemous to make use of God's name to cover up criminal practices, to reduce peoples to servitude, to torture persons or put them to death. The misuse of God's name to commit a crime can provoke others to repudiate religion.

2479 Detraction and calumny destroy the *reputation and honor of one's neighbor*. Honor is the social witness given to human dignity, and everyone enjoys a natural right to the honor of his name and reputation and to respect. Thus, detraction and calumny offend against the virtues of justice and charity.

2480 Every word or attitude is forbidden which by *flattery, adulation, or complaisance* encourages and confirms another in malicious acts and perverse conduct. Adulation is a **grave fault** if it makes one an accomplice in another's vices or grave sins. Neither the desire to be of service nor friendship justifies duplicitous speech. Adulation is a venial sin when it only seeks to be agreeable, to avoid evil, to meet a need, or to obtain legitimate advantages.

2481 *Boasting* or bragging is an offense against truth. So is *irony* aimed at disparaging someone by maliciously caricaturing some aspect of his behavior.