

JAMES 3:1-12

Real Faith Produces Genuine Love

The Connection of the Heart and the Tongue.

Caution Against Becoming Teachers: 3:1-2

1. Teachers Will Receive a Stricter Judgment (vs. 1)

- a. WHY?
 - i. A Teacher is responsible to speak the truth and not personal opinion.
 - ii. What a teacher says affects many lives.
 - iii. Teachers are expected to live the truth and not just teach it.

2. Maturity and Self-Control are Required to Prevent Stumbling (vs. 2)

- a. The tongue is a tool
- b. The tongue is a weapon
 - i. “perfect” - τελειος (Gr.) – teleios – brought to completeness, matured completely
- c. **Matthew 15:16-20**

3. The Root Problem of the Tongue is the Heart (extra credit)

- a. The tongue reveals what the heart conceals
- b. The “fruit” of a person is displayed on the tongue
- c. **Luke 6:43-45**

QUESTION: Do you have an example of how “loose lips” destroyed the character of a famous person? A non-famous person?

The Power of the Tongue: 3:3-4

1. Like a Bit on a Horse (vs. 3)

- a. The Control is Given to The Driver
- b. The Tongue Directs the Person’s Life

2. Like a Small Rudder on a Ship (vs. 4)

- a. It is Connected to the Wheel
- b. The Tongue Determines the Course of the Person’s Life

QUESTION: Is it understandable when James compares the tongue to a “bit” and a “rudder”? Why?

The Danger of the Tongue: 3:5-6

- 1. A Little Member Which Boasts Great Things (vs. 5)**
 - a. Delusions of Grandeur
 - b. Writes Checks It Can't Cash
- 2. Like a Small Fire Which Starts a Forest Fire (vs. 5)**
 - a. Kiamichi's Men's Clinic Fire
 - b. Gossip
 - c. "A flapping tongue has killed more men than sudden storms ever did." – Robert Jordan
- 3. The Tongue is Evil (vs. 6)**
 - a. It's a World of Evil
 - b. It Corrupts the Whole Person
 - c. Sets the Whole Course of Our Lives on Fire
 - d. Is Set on Fire by Hell
 - i. "hell" - γέννα (Gr.) – ge-enna – Valley of Hinnom (Gehenna), figuratively the place of eternal punishment.
 - ii. Worship of Molech

Difficulty In Taming the Tongue: 3:7-12

- 1. Taming Animals is Possible; But Not the Tongue (vs. 7)**
 - a. It can only be tamed by God
 - b. A Lion Cannot Tame Itself
 - c. **Matt. 19:16-30 (21-26)**
- 2. The Tongue is Restless and Poisonous (vs. 8)**
 - a. **Proverbs 17:4; 17:20; 18:21; 25:23; 26:28**
- 3. The Double-Minded Tongue (vss. 9-12)**
 - a. It is Sinful
 - i. **Revelation 3:15-16**
 - b. It Reveals Who Controls the Heart

QUESTION: How do you know when God controls your tongue? Can we take that control back? Why do we?

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