

Tame the Tongue— James 3:1-12

February 7, 2021

James 3:1-2

“Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ² We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.”

James 3:1 (MSG)

“Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.”

*Teaching is more than sharing knowledge...
Teaching is sharing a life.*

Ephesians 4:11-13

“So, Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

Luke 6:45

“... the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.”

***The tongue makes public
what the heart keeps private***

James 3:3-6

“When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴ Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small

rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. ⁵ Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.”

PAUSE Before You Speak

Is it **P**ointed properly?

Romans 1:29-30

“They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful...”

Is it **A**ccurate?

John 16:13

“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.”

Is it **U**seful?

Ephesians 4:29

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

Is it **S**pirit Initiated?

Ephesians 5:18-20

“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Is it **E**ssential?

James 1:9; Proverbs 10:19; Proverbs 17:28; Proverbs 18:2; Proverbs 21:23; Psalm 141:3

James 3:7-8

“All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.”

James 3:9-12

“With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ¹¹ Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.”

Psalm 22:3

“You are holy, you inhabit the praises of Your people.”