

Taming the Tongue

James 3:1-12

Main Point:

Since it matters how you speak, strive to control your tongue by God's power.

1. We all struggle to control our tongue.
2. But we need to control our tongue because it will help us in other areas of life.
3. We also need to control our tongue because it is a destructive force for evil.
4. We need to control our tongue because it is a mark of a true Christian as well.
5. We can control our tongue by the grace and help of God in Jesus Christ.

Douglas Moo "Teachers, because they bear so much responsibility for the spiritual welfare of those to whom they minister, will be scrutinized by the Lord more carefully than others."

Luke 12:48 ⁴⁸ ... For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more. (NKJV)

Proverbs 6:16-17 16 These six *things* the LORD hates, Yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him: 17 A proud look, A lying tongue ... (NKJV)

Proverbs 13:3 3 He who guards his mouth preserves his life, *But* he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction. (NKJV)

Matthew 12:36 36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. (NKJV)

Ephesians 4:29 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. (NKJV)

Proverbs 21:23 23 Whoever guards his mouth and tongue Keeps his soul from troubles. (NKJV)

Matthew 15:11 ¹¹ "Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man." (NKJV)

Anthony Selvaggio "James wants us to understand that while the tongue is small, it can become a weapon of mass destruction."

Proverbs 26:28 28 A lying tongue hates *those who are* crushed by it, And a flattering mouth works ruin. (NKJV)

Anthony Selvaggio "According to James, a Christian who uses his tongue to both bless God and curse his own brother is just as absurd as a spring which yields both fresh water and salt water, a fig tree which bears olives, or a grapevine which bears figs."

James 1:26 ²⁶ If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion *is* useless. (NKJV)

Anthony Selvaggio, "What James is telling us is that humans, left to their own nature, are incapable of taming the tongue, but those who are new creations in Christ can progress towards the perfection of which ... [he] speaks in James 3:2."

Psalms 141:3 3 Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips. (NKJV)