



Taming the Tongue
James 3:1-12

The Need to Control the Tongue

- **Every Idle Word Will Be Judged**
- **Matthew 12:36** - 36 I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, 37 for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

The Need to Control the Tongue

- **Ensure Our Religion is not in Vain**
- **James 1:26** - 26 If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.
- **Practice Restraint in Speaking**
- **Proverbs 10:19** - 19 When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.

Encouraging or Discouraging Teacher?

- **James 3:1-2** - Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 2 For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.

CHRISTIANS SAY, "THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR LOVE," BUT HAVE YOU SEEN WHAT SOME OF THEM ARE POSTING ON SOCIAL MEDIA?



©AIG 2016

John 13:35

AnswersInGenesis.org

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

Ephesians 4:29

Directing the Tongue

- **James 3:3-4** - 3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. 4 Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.

A Small Fire Can Set a Forest Ablaze

- **James 3:5** - 5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

A Small Fire Can Set a Forest Ablaze

- **Psalms 39:1** - I said, “I will guard my ways, that I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth with a muzzle, so long as the wicked are in my presence.”
- **Psalms 73:8** - 8 They scoff and speak with malice; loftily they threaten oppression.

The Danger of Gossip and Division

- **James 3:6** - 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.

Gossip Destroys Churches

- **Leviticus 19:16** - 16 You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord.
- **Proverbs 16:28** - 28 A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends. (NIV)
- **Proverbs 26:22** - 22 The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts. (NIV)

How to End Gossip

- **Proverbs 26:20** - 20 Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down.

A Deadly Poison

- **James 3:7-8** - 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

Inconsistencies of the Tongue

- **James 3:9-12** - 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.