

Taming the Tongue
James 3:1-12
Grace Church
September 28, 2008
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I. To tame the tongue, we must recognize that we will be held accountable for what we say. *James 3:1-2*

A. James' point is that a man should not take on the role of teacher unless God has called him to it, because teachers will incur a stricter judgment.

B. James then zeroes in on the tongue:

James 3:2 *Matthew 12:36-37*

- Jesus was teaching that our works reveal whether our faith is genuine faith.

II. To tame the tongue, we must recognize its power for good or for evil. *James 3:3-5a*

A. James uses two analogies: the bit and the rudder.

B. There is a comparison in the sense of influencing direction.

C. Proverbs has much to say about the power of the tongue, either for good or for evil. *Proverbs 12:18*

III. To tame the tongue, we must recognize that it is humanly untamable. *James 3:5b-8*

A. James uses two more word pictures: a forest fire and tamed animals.

B. James does not say that the tongue is untamable.

1. It is humanly untamable.

2. Only God can tame it.

IV. To tame the tongue, we must recognize that its inconsistencies are rooted in its source. *James 3:9-12*

A. James points out a gross inconsistency that he has observed.

B. He points out that what often happens among Christians is contrary to all of nature.

Matthew 12:34 Matthew 15:18

C. The mouth is simply the opening that vents whatever is in the heart.

1. If you want to tame the terrible tongue, the place to start is with your heart.
2. Work daily at taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor. 10:5).
3. Walk daily under the control of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:18).
4. Renew your mind by memorizing Scripture.

James 1:19 Ephesians 4:29

V. Conclusion:

- A. Monitor your conversations for two days.
- B. Why doesn't James give us a list of helpful tips on how to control our tongue?



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