

“GUARD YOUR TONGUE”
(First Things First – Week 5)
(James 3:1-12)
February 5, 2012

Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.
2Timothy 2:16

Gossip's main purpose is to spread misery.

A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.
Proverbs 16:28

The truth is: words CAN & DO hurt.

If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight reign on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.
James 1:26

The power of words and our responsibility in controlling them:

I. Words Reveal the HEART of the Believer

1. We all FAIL in how we relate verbally to others.

Jesus lived the only perfect life:

“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”
1Peter 2:2

2. Control of the tongue can influence or determine the FUTURE.

3. This control anticipates our ability to correctly handle the rest of our lives.

When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.
Proverbs 10:19

Our spiritual maturity is often displayed by our ability or lack of ability to CONTROL our tongue.

“I’ve often regretted my speech, but never my silence.”
-Plubius

II. Words Reveal the CONDITION of the Heart

1. The smallest things can have HUGE effects.

2. Great boasts may reveal a PROUD heart.

“But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man unclean.”
Matthew 15:18

“Dignity is the ability to hold back from the tongue what should never have been on the mind or in the heart in the first place.”
-Anonymous

If you have played the fool and exalted yourself, or if you planned evil, clap your hand over your mouth!
Proverbs 30:3

If the tongue is in control, perhaps we need a CIRCUMCISION of the heart.

III. Words Reveal the Influence of EVIL

“The wildest thing on earth has its den right behind our teeth.”

1. A loose tongue is activated by SATAN.

“The tongue was meant to be a divine instrument, but the devil often plays upon it.”

2. A loose tongue “POISONS”

The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man’s inmost parts.
Proverbs 26:22

3. Hell is at the ROOT.

You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? Matthew 12:34

“The tongue of man is a twisty thing.” -Homer

Before speaking, ask yourself these questions:

1) Is it true? 2) Is it kind? 3) Is it necessary?

IV. Words Reveal the Condition of the SOUL

1. Can we “bless God” and “curse men”? How hypocritical!

2. Can we mix saltwater with fresh?

Praising & cursing = divided soul.

V. Words Should be Used for the GLORY of God

1. Its first purpose is to PRAISE God.

“Sing joyfully to the Lord you righteous, it is fitting for the upright to praise him.
Psalm 33:1

2. Its second purpose is to ACKNOWLEDGE him as Lord.

“...it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” Romans 10:10

3. Its third purpose is to SHARE the Gospel.

“Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” 1Peter 3:10,15

4. Its fourth purpose is to EDIFY others

“Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and mutual edification.” Romans 14:19

Never miss an opportunity to encourage someone. It may be the only POSITIVE word they hear that day.

The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life. Proverbs 10:11