

The Dangerous Tongue

James 3:1-12

A. The Caution against Teaching. 3:1-2

1. The Warning: Don't many of you be teachers...
2. The Reason: Teachers receive stricter judgment.
3. The Potential for Judgment: We all stumble.
4. The Standard of Perfection: If you can control your tongue, you can control your whole body!

B. The Importance of the Tongue. 3:3-5 (The Point: Small objects unduly influence large outcomes...)

1. Bits control horses.
2. Rudders control ships.
3. Tongues boast great things.
4. A small flame sets afire a large forest.

C. The Dangers of the Tongue. 3:6-12

1. Description of the Tongue's Danger. 3:6-8

- a. It is volatile.
- b. It is unrighteous.
- c. It contaminates the whole body.
- d. It destroys our life.
- e. Its source is hell.
- f. It is untamable.
- g. It is evil.
- h. It is poisonous.

2. Examples of the Tongue's Evil. 3:9-12

- a. It is hypocritical
 - 1) It blesses God
 - 2) And curses men created in God's image.
- b. It is inconsistent. From the same mouth comes forth both blessing and cursing
 - 1) Does a fountain give both fresh and bitter water?
 - 2) Does a fig tree produce olives?
 - 3) Does a grape vine produce figs?
 - 4) Can salt water produce fresh?

D. Summary

1. Those who teach will be judged by a more rigorous standard.
2. The tongue is small, but has enormous influence.
3. The tongue is inspired by our old sin nature.
4. We are most inconsistent when we bless God, but curse men, created in God's image.

E. Words to Live By:

1. "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear." Ephesians 4:29 (NASB)
2. "... speaking the truth in love..." Ephesians 4:15
3. "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." Proverbs 15:1 (NKJV, ESV)

Guard your tongue ...

The Dangerous Tongue

James 3:1-12

A. The Caution against Teaching. 3:1-2

1. The Warning: Don't many of you be _____.
2. The Reason: Teachers receive stricter _____.
3. The Potential for Judgment: We all _____.
4. The Standard of Perfection: If you can control your _____, you can control your whole _____!

B. The Importance of the Tongue. 3:3-5 (The Point: _____ objects unduly influence _____ outcomes...)

1. _____ control _____.
2. _____ control _____.
3. _____ boast _____ things.
4. A small _____ sets afire a large _____.

C. The Dangers of the Tongue. 3:6-12

1. Description of the Tongue's Danger. 3:6-8

- a. It is v _____.
- b. It is u _____.
- c. It c _____ the whole body.
- d. It d _____ our life.
- e. Its source is h _____.
- f. It is u _____.
- g. It is e _____.
- h. It is p _____.

2. Examples of the Tongue's Evil. 3:9-12

- a. It is _____
 - 1) It _____ God
 - 2) And _____ men created in God's image.
- b. It is _____. From the same mouth comes forth both _____ and _____.
 - 1) Does a fountain give both _____ and _____ water?
 - 2) Does a _____ tree produce _____?
 - 3) Does a _____ vine produce _____?
 - 4) Can _____ water produce _____?

D. Summary

1. Those who _____ will be judged by a more rigorous standard.
2. The tongue is small, but has enormous _____.
3. The tongue is inspired by our old _____ nature.
4. We are most inconsistent when we bless God, but _____ men, created in God's image.

E. Words to Live By:

1. "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear." Ephesians 4:29 (NASB)
2. "... speaking the truth in love..." Ephesians 4:15
3. "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." Proverbs 15:1 (NKJV, ESV)

_____ **your tongue ...**