

Spirit-Controlled Speech: How to Glorify God with our Tongue

James 3:1-12

Warning to Teachers: James 3:1

The first verse of our text is a warning to would-be teachers. We will stand in account for our teaching (Hebrews 13:17)

- This is not to discourage those who would be teachers from becoming them, but instead to consider the weightiness and seriousness of the position! The manner and content of which we speak *matters*. **James 1:19-20** tells us that “*every person* (not just teachers) should be quick to hear (or listen) slow to speak and slow to anger. For the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”

Our Speech is a Sign of Our Maturity: James 3:2

“Perfect” is referring to Spiritual Maturity. There is no one but Christ who walked this earth that was perfect (1 John 1:8) “*To the degree that our holiness approaches that of Christ’s, to that degree we are spiritually ‘perfect’ or mature*” - John MacArthur

- “Whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked” 1 John 2:6
- Jesus links the **heart** and the **mouth** together (Matthew 15:11, Luke 6:45). Our **deeds** will follow suit (Proverbs 18:6)

The Power of the Tongue: James 3:3-5a

The tongue has the power to *steer and control*. Both an out of control horse or an out of control ship has the potential to hurt not only you, but many people! (Proverbs 18:21)

Example: Hymenaeus, Alexander and Philetus (1 Timothy 1:19-20, 2 Timothy 2:16-18). They made a **shipwreck** of their faith through **irreverent babble** and **talk that spread like gangrene**. (False teaching).

Ways for believers to stumble in their speech:

1. Gossip (Proverbs 18:22)
2. Slander (Ephesians 4:31-32)
3. Crude talk (Ephesians 4:29)

The Destructive Nature of the Tongue: James 3:5b-6

The tongue is talked about as a *fire* (which can be both beneficial and harmful). Recklessness with fire can cause permanent damage. The same can be said with our tongue. “...staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell” (vs.6)

The Restlessness and Hypocrisy of the Tongue: James 3:7-12

- God has given man every creature to have dominion over, but the tongue eludes our control.
- We see the contrasting nature of our tongue. One minute Peter was confessing Christ as the Son of God (Matt 16:16) and the next he was denying Christ (Matt 26:74-75)

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Prayer (Psalm 51:10, Psalm 141:3 Psalm 19:14), meditating on God’s word (Phil 4:8), loving our brothers and sisters in Christ (Galatians 6:10) and remembering the fact that we are representing Christ to a lost world should aid us in controlling our speech! (Colossians 4:5-6)

Worship: Grace Alone — The Modern Post
Speak, O Lord — The Gettys

I Stand Amazed — Norton Hall Band

Closing Song: Holy, Holy, Holy — Sovereign Grace Music

Service Times: Sundays: Prayer 9:45a/Church 10:30a; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30p/Men 7p;
Thursdays: Prayer 6:20p/Church 7p

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** Throughout the month of August we are collecting monetary donations for the Bobb family, who live and serve in Cambodia. For more information about the Bobbs and their work in Cambodia, please see the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary. There is a container on the back table for your monetary donations, or you can give on Venmo, please make sure to note that it is for the Bobbs. ***NEXT SUNDAY IS THE LAST DAY FOR THIS COLLECTION!***

★**HOSPITALITY MINISTRY MEETING:** If you currently serve in the Hospitality Ministry, or if you are interested in serving in that ministry, there will be a meeting TODAY immediately following the worship service. Please plan to stay for this important meeting. If you have any questions, please see Madison Ardrey.

★**MENS BREAKFAST:** Men, the monthly Men's Breakfast is scheduled for THIS Saturday, August 24th, at 7am, at Big Apple Café — Log Pond. Please RSVP to Zach Adams by Wednesday, August 21st. (740)618-0739

★**CHURCH NIGHT OF PRAYER:** Our monthly Church Night of Prayer will be on Tuesday, September 3rd, from 7-8pm. We would love for everyone to join us for this corporate time of prayer where we will be praying for the leadership of the church and for specific prayer requests within the church body.

★**END OF SUMMER FELLOWSHIP:** We are having an "End of Summer" Gathering NEXT Sunday, August 25th, starting at 5pm, at Andy's house. There is a sign-up list on the table in the entryway, please sign-up to bring something. We would love for EVERYONE to join us for this time of fun, food, and fellowship!

★**LEGACY THEOLOGY PRACTICUM:** On September 9th we begin our Practicum and we are offering "Basic Greek" and "God and Revelation" for our first course. This will be from September 9th through November 25th. "Basic Greek" will be from 6-7pm and "God and Revelation" will be from 7-9pm each Monday. If interested in any of these Courses, please let Elder Richard or Elder Zach know so we can prepare a Syllabus for you for the Course.