



## Taming the Tongue

(James 3)

When Paul said, "grieve not the Holy Spirit,.." he was referring to the misuse of the tongue. (See Eph. 4:29,30.)

James said that one's ability to "bridle" his tongue is a true test of maturity.

Probably no time can be more rewarding than time spent in prayerful planning and practice of the right use of words and speech. The tongue can either heal or bruise. It may give hope, or it may discourage. It can be directed toward God or away from Him. It can either make or break marriages and friendships. It can honor God or curse Him.

It is important to our Christian growth and ministry that we study and grow in the knowledge of Scriptural principles regarding the use of the tongue.

### I. Basic Insights

A. Can any person tame or control his tongue by his own strength (Jas. 3:8)?

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B. Note five descriptions of the destructive nature of an unconsecrated tongue (Jas. 3:6).

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C. Why is it humanly impossible to control the tongue (Matt. 12:34)?

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D. Through whose power can we obey Scriptural Truth (Phil. 4:13)?

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12. Ps. 33:2,3 \_\_\_\_\_

13. Jn. 16:24 \_\_\_\_\_

14. Eph. 4:15 \_\_\_\_\_

15. Eph. 4:29 \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Projects**

A. Write "R" for right usage and "W" for wrong usage of the tongue.

1. silence: always \_\_\_\_\_ sometimes \_\_\_\_\_

2. profanity \_\_\_\_\_

3. sarcasm: almost always \_\_\_\_\_

4. talking to a person about a problem who is not part of the problem or solution (gossip)  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. boasting \_\_\_\_\_

B. List some right uses of the tongue.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

C. What might you commend the following people for?

1. cashier at supermarket \_\_\_\_\_

2. waitress \_\_\_\_\_

3. Sunday School teacher/student \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. organist/singer \_\_\_\_\_

5. custodian \_\_\_\_\_

6. parents \_\_\_\_\_

D. Make a list of things you can share with others.

4. Prov. 21:23
5. " 17:28
6. " 18:8
7. Matt. 12:36,37
8. I Pet. 3:10
9. Col. 4:6
10. Ps. 19:14

B. Learn to keep promises (Ps. 15:1-4).

C. Learn to keep vows to God (Eccl. 5:4-7).

D. Learn to identify:

1. Gossip (reporting or rumoring problems that do not concern you)
2. Slander (truth designed to hurt)
3. Bad reports (misinformation)

E. Join the "Good Reporters Fellowship"

1. The world reports bad news.
2. Remember that Satan is the "accuser" of brethren (Rev. 12:10). Let us not be like him.

F. List ten sentences that can help defuse an argument.

1. "Could you say that another way so I can be sure that I am understanding you?"
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

13. "I like the way you smile. It really brightens my day."

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14. "We ought to have company more often. It's the only time we get good food around here."

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15. "That was a super meal. You are a fantastic cook."

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16. "How come you could get home early tonight when you don't do it other nights?"

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17. "Boy, it's really great you got home early. I really miss you during the day."

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