
Put Out the Fire

James 3:1-10

James 3:1-10

¹My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. ²For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. ³Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body.

James 3:1-10

⁴ Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. ⁵ Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!

James 3:1-10

⁶ And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind.

James 3:1-10

⁸ But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

Why should not many be teachers?

First, we must teach the Word of God correctly, without error and without personal interpretations

Secondly, our words and actions must be the same

The Careless Tongue

James 1:26 - ²⁶ If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

James 1:19 – ¹⁹ So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

The Careless Tongue

*It is not always that we are 100% wrong for our anger,
but if we speak in anger, we are almost always 100%
wrong in what we say*

*Not all carelessness is built on maliciousness, but it is
always born out of selfishness*

The Careless Tongue

Proverbs 17:27 - A truly wise person uses few words; a person with understanding is even-tempered (NLT)

Anger issues create word/tongue issues

The Careless Tongue

Ephesians 5:4 - ⁴ Let there be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse [obscene or vulgar] joking, because such things are not appropriate [for believers]; but instead speak of your thankfulness [to God]. (AMP)

We cannot let the world dictate our language or our conversations

The Cautious Tongue

Proverbs 13:3 - Those who control their tongue will have a long life; opening your mouth can ruin everything (NLT)

Proverbs 21:23 - Watch your tongue and keep your mouth shut and you will stay out of trouble. (NLT)

The Cautious Tongue

Before we speak, we need to ask ourselves three things:

- 1. Why am I speaking?*
- 2. How am I speaking?*
- 3. What is the desired outcome of me speaking?*

These three questions should not be answered by us, but by the Holy Spirit

The Cautious Tongue

Galatians 6:1-3 - Brothers, if anyone is caught in any sin, you who are spiritual [that is, you who are responsive to the guidance of the Spirit] are to restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness [not with a sense of superiority or self-righteousness], keeping a watchful eye on yourself, so that you are not tempted as well. ² Carry one another's burdens and in this way, you will fulfill the requirements of the law of Christ [that is, the law of Christian love]. ³ For if anyone thinks he is something [special] when [in fact] he is nothing [special except in his own eyes], he deceives himself. (AMP)

The Caring/Comforting Tongue

Some words of life will hurt

*Job 6:25 - Honest words can be painful, but what do
your criticisms amount to? (NLT)*

The Caring/Comforting Tongue

*Proverbs 12:18 - Some people make cutting remarks,
but the words of the wise bring healing (NLT)*

*Proverbs 15:31 - If you listen to constructive criticism,
you will be at home among the wise (NLT)*

The Caring/Comforting Tongue

All words lovingly spoken will ultimately lead to life

Proverbs 16:24 - Kind words are like honey—sweet to the soul and healthy for the body. (NLT)

The Caring/Comforting Tongue

Hebrews 10:24-25 - 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Caring/Comforting Tongue

Ephesians 4:29-31 - ²⁹ Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.