

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Control That Tongue

Bill Brinkworth

There is a part of man, no matter if man or woman, big or small, old or young, that gets them in the most trouble. This appendage, as little as it is (James 3:5), helps send many in the wrong direction (Jam. 3:3, 4) and is responsible for many things that its owner regrets. This difficult to manage part of everyone's anatomy is one's tongue.

Controlled, one's tongue can be a blessing to God and man (Jam. 3:9, 10). Uncontrolled, the tongue can:

- Make some to desire to govern others' lives (Jam. 3:1). As Matthew Henry has written, "... do not give yourselves the air of teachers, imposers, and judges, but rather speak with the humility and spirit of learners. Do not censure one another, as if all must be brought to your standard."
- Offend others (Jam. 3:2).
- Govern one's whole body into doing wrong things (Jam. 3:3, 4).
- Boast. We are nothing on our merit. If we have achieved anything more than another person, it is only because of God's grace, mercy, and blessing.

- Boasting elevates our successes due to our merit and disregards God's help and influence (Jam. 3:5).
- Defile one's body (Jam. 3:6). A slip of the tongue can destroy one's testimony, causing others to look at him in a less desirable light. Another misspoken word can totally change the direction of one's life. Words spewed in anger can wound relationships and cause one to have a lonely life.
 - Unrestrained evil talk (Jam.3: 8) destroys its owner's future and the futures of others. The words uttered from an unbridled mouth have killed many in wars and changed the courses of nations.

We are blessed to have the ability to speak. It can do so much harm, but it was not given to us for that reason. Our speech was given to bring honor and glory to God (Jam. 9, 10), to encourage others, to provide counsel, to offer words that will guide others in the way God has revealed from His Word, and hosts of other positive outcomes.

Unbridled, the tongue will not achieve much of its original intent. Controlled, it can do more good than any of our other appendages. Is your speech under your control or the Holy Spirit's? Does your lack of controlling what your tongue utters reflect what truly lurks in your heart (Jam. 3:14)?

“If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say it!”

— A Mother's Advice

Mind Your Speech

Bill Brinkworth

God gave man the ability to speak. The purpose of speech is for His creation to communicate with others and to bring glory to Him. However, man's sinful, self-centered nature does not always use one's lips for the intended purpose.

Here are some of God's wisdom of what to do with the gift He gave us, as is revealed in Proverbs 15:

- To squelch nasty arguments, lower your voice in heated discussions, and it will diffuse anger.
"A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger." Prov. 15:1
- Purpose to present facts and not popular answers or opinions.
"The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things." Proverbs 15:28
- Be wise and not hurtful in what you say. Use the truth to inform others and to help them, not just opinions and assumptions.
"The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness." Proverbs 15:2 Also: Prov. 15:7.
*"A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit."
Proverbs 15:4*
- Be kind and considerate when speaking to others.
"The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the

*LORD: but the words of the pure are pleasant words.”
Proverbs 15:26*

- There is a time to say certain things. Wait patiently for the right moment to share your thoughts, experiences, and suggestions.

“A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!” Proverbs 15:23

With the God-given gift of speech, use it to help others, not to separate, hurt, deceive, or sway others in areas that are not right or helpful. Your testimony, especially if you are a child of God, often rides on what you have said. Speak carefully.

**Oh, be careful, little tongue, what you say,
Oh, be careful, little tongue, what you say.
There's a Father up above looking down in love,
Oh, be careful, little tongue, what you say.**

Author unknown of a Child's Sunday School Song

The Sinning Tongue

Bill Brinkworth

Many sins are committed by the tongue. Here is some of what the Bible says about our speech:

“But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.” James 3:8

“Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips:” Isa. 6:5

“He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.” Proverbs 30:5

“And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.” Matthew 12:32

“For thy mouth uttereth thine iniquity, and thou chooseth the tongue of the crafty.” Job 15:5

“Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully.” Psalms 52:2

“Who whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words:” Psalms 64:3

“They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.” Psalms 73:9

“The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.” Proverbs 15:2

“The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.” Proverbs 21:6

“A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.” Proverbs 26:28

“Wisdom is having lots to say, but not always saying it!” — Author Unknown

A Harsh Word

Author Unknown

*One day a harsh word, harshly said,
Upon an evil journey sped,
And like a sharp and cruel dart
It pierced a fond and loving heart.*

*It turned a friend into a foe
And everywhere brought pain and woe.
A kind word followed it one day,
Sped swiftly on its blessed way.*

*It healed the wound and soothed the pain,
And friends of old were friends again.
It made the hate and anger cease,
And everywhere brought joy and peace.*

*And yet the harsh word left a trace
The kind word could not efface,
And though the heart its love regained
It left a scar that long remained.*

*Friends can forgive, but not forget,
Nor lose the sense of keen regret.
Oh, if we would but learn to know
How swift and sure our words can go.*

*How we would weigh with utmost care
Each thought before it reached the air —
And only speak the words that move
Like white-winged messengers of love.*