

James 3:1-12

Controlling Our Speech

Many of the problems we face in life are a result of the things we say. Our words have the ability to stir up trouble, cause jealousy, and even ignite straight out anger. As you look at our passage today, consider how your speech could be different in light of the warning James gives us.

> What do verses 2-4 say about the significance of being able to control our speech? If we can learn to control our tongue, we can learn to control anything.

> In your own words, describe the negative impact our speech can have (vv. 5-6)? It can defile our whole body. It can cause great destruction all around us. It can do great damage.

> Why do you think the tongue is so difficult to tame (vv. 7-8)? It is quick to reveal our selfishness, sin nature, pride, etc.

> What is the main point of verses 9-12? At times we worship God with our speech, other times we dishonor Him—this shouldn't be.

Application

Notice the words of advice we can learn from these verses:

- Controlling our speech will impact our lives overall for the better.
- Controlling or speech will spare us from many of the problems we face.
- Controlling our speech will reveal a heart that seeks to honor the Lord.

Our speech reveals so much about us. It either reveals sinful thoughts and attitudes or it reveals righteous thoughts and attitudes. We must remember that our speech is ultimately a reflection of our heart (Matt. 12:35). What does your speech reveal about your heart? What do you need to do about it?

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