

Danger of the tongue

The most powerful part of your body is your tongue - Prov 18:21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

The tongue is also the most dangerous part of the body - James 3:5-6 - 5 Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 **The tongue also is a fire**, a world of evil among the parts of the body. **It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire**, and is itself set on fire by hell.

It's contributing to what comes out of us, which makes us unclean -

Matt 15:11 What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean.'

Matt 15:16-20 - 16 "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. 17 "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? 18 But **the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart**, and these make a man 'unclean.' 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. 20 **These are what make a man 'unclean'**; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.'

We ALLOW our tongues to be used for good and bad...that should not be - James 3:7-12 - 7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, 8 but **no man can tame the tongue**. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 **With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father**, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. 11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

We must realize, we have to answer to God for every word we speak - Matt 12:36-37 - 36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for EVERY CARELESS WORD they have spoken. 37 For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

Our careless words will be exposed by our actions

When we accept Christ, we confess He is our Lord, therefore we must do what He says - Rom 10:9-10 - 9 That if you **confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord,"** and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Obedying Christ, shows that we are truly Christian, not just claiming it - 1 John 2:3-6 - 3 We know that we have come to know him IF we obey his commands. 4 The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. **THIS IS HOW WE KNOW WE ARE IN HIM**: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

Loving God will be shown through us loving others, and those that do otherwise are shown to be liars - 1 John 4:20-21 - 20 If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Characteristics of speaking we must consider

Our words are worthless when not based on or driven by God - Matt 15:8-9 - 8 "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 9 They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men."

Our tongues will dictate the quality of our lives –

1 Peter 3:10 For, "Whoever would love life and see good days MUST keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech."

Prov 21:23 He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.

Silence is most times the best thing said - Prov 17:28 Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.

We must be in control of the quality of what comes out our mouths - Eph 4:29 **DO NOT LET any unwholesome talk** come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Know that deceptively speaking is extremely harmful - Prov 26:18-19 - 18 Like a madman shooting firebrands or deadly arrows 19 is a man who deceives his neighbor and says, "I was only joking!"

Not only what we say but how we say it is very important - Prov 15:1 - A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

What must we do in order to tame the tongue

Know that a way to distinguish the righteous from the wicked is based on WHAT they say and HOW they say it - Prov 10:32 The lips of the righteous know what is fitting, but the mouth of the wicked only what is perverse.

We must ONLY be fueled by God - Titus 1:15-16 - 15 **To the pure**, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. 16 They claim to know God, but **by their actions they deny him**. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

We must speak in the Godly controlled process - James 1:19 My dear brothers, take note of this: **Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry**,