

TEACHERS WITHIN THE CHURCH MUST BE CAREFUL WHAT THEY SAY

James 3:1-12

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Everyone has temptations and trials, no one is immune but for a special group of people, there is one weakness (temptation) more common to them than to other people and that is the misuse of the tongue and the group of people that this perhaps affects more is teachers within the Church

I. NOT EVERYONE SHOULD BECOME A TEACHER

1. James 3:1
2. Teaching is a high calling, perhaps one of the greatest of all callings.
 - Teachers are responsible for the lives and spiritual growth of those under him/her.
 - Teachers receive greater judgment from God.
3. If one is called and gifted to teach, then he/she MUST teach.
4. A teacher's main tool for teaching, of course is talking/speech, therefore the tongue.
 - Temptation to misuse the tongue attacks teachers perhaps more than anything else.

II. EVERYONE OFFENDS AT ONE TIME OR OTHER WITH THEIR TONGUE

1. James 3:2
2. The tongue shows whether one is:
 - patient and long suffering, kind, rejoicing in the truth, bearing all things, believing God in all things, hoping in God in all things, enduring all things for God, not bragging, not puffed up, not jealous, not rude, not provoked, not thinking any evil thoughts or any evil thing.
3. Everyone is held accountable by God for every word spoken.
 - A person's maturity can be measured by the control or lack of control of the tongue.
 - Control of the tongue can lead to control of the rest of one's body and mind.
4. The tongue speaks what is in the heart or mind.
 - Matthew 12:34-37; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

III. THE TONGUE BOASTS OF GREAT THINGS

1. James 3:3-5
2. Two illustrations:
 - The bit that is in a horses' mouth that guides and turns the large animal is very small.
 - The rudder that turns great ships, even in storms, is tiny compared to the large ship.
3. The destructive power of the tiny tongue is great as it boasts:
 - of ability, of talents, of self-sufficiency, of triumphs, of possessions, of position, of spirituality, of accomplishments.

4. All boasting is destructive and is nothing more than vain and empty talk.
- Psalm 10:3; 49:6-7; Proverbs 25:14; 27:1; James 4:16

IV. THE TONGUE IS LIKE A FIRE THAT DESTROYS

1. James 3:5-6
2. The tongue is like a tiny spark that can cause a fire that destroys an entire forest.
- marriages destroyed, children disturbed, friendships damaged, reputations ruined, wars fought, fights started, injuries caused, bodies maimed, promotions denied.
3. Everybody's entire nature/life is defiled by the tiny tongue.
- immorality, wickedness, maliciousness, envy, lust, blasphemy, covetousness, idolatry, murder, anger, divisiveness.
4. Satan is the source of a fiery tongue.
- Ephesians 4:31; Titus 3:1-2; James 4:11; 1 Peter 2:1; Psalm 31:13; Proverbs 10:18; 11:9; Jeremiah 9:4; Isaiah 59:3; Hebrews 12:14-15

V. THE TONGUE IS A RESTLESS EVIL

1. James 3:7-12
2. The tongue is the only thing that cannot be tamed. Every animal, etc., has been tamed by man, but not the tongue.
3. People cannot tame the tongue by their self, only God can do it.
4. The tongue is restless, uneasy, unstable and full of poison.
- The tongue blesses and then turns around and curses.
5. For believers, the tongue **MUST** be controlled.
- Psalm 34:13; Proverbs 13:3; 21:23; James 1:26; 3:10; Luke 6:46; Romans 2:21; Titus 1:16

CONCLUSION:

1. Teachers are more accountable to God than those who are not teachers.
2. Words are what teachers use and temptation to misuse words is great among teachers.
3. Nobody is ever in complete control of his/her tongue.
4. Only God can completely control the tongue and one must be in God's will for that to happen.
5. Every person will give an account of his/her words spoken when standing before God.
6. Every believer is watched closely by the unbelieving world, therefore caution must be used with every spoken word.