

Paul Tripp: "...our words are the most powerful and consistent indicator of our need for the grace of Christ."

Profile of the Tongue

James 3:1-18
Daryn Kinney
March 21, 2010

Examine the gospel's influence on your speech.

James 4:7-10

Love the Gospel, Live the Gospel, Advance the Gospel

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- Why doesn't James encourage people to be teachers?
- How is the tongue an "active threat" to you and the entire church community?
- Where are you most tempted to be careless with your words? Why?
- James 3:10 is a "forceful protest." Is it as big a deal as James makes it? If so, why?
- Read Ephesians 4:29-5:2 out loud. How do these verses influence your use of modern technology (twitter facebook, email, ect)?
- Do your words encourage others to be open and honest about their thoughts and feelings? Do they encourage faith and spiritual growth in those around you? What can you do to grow in these areas?
- What do your words spoken over the last two days communicate about your heart? About the gospel's influence on your life?
- Describe the "two wisdoms" of James 3:13-18 and what they have to do with the tongue. With all of life?
- How does redemption in Jesus give us hope to daily face our untamable tongues?

Do you have a tongue?

James 3:1-18

Our faith in Jesus is put on display in and through the words we speak.

1. The tongue is the reason for a teacher's judgment (James 3:1)

A stricter judgment

The primary means (tool) of teaching ends up being the primary reason for his warning...*the tongue*.

Hebrews 13:7

What we're reading is one part of a whole.
James 1:19, 26; 5:9

2. The tongue is an active threat (James 3:2-8)

A horse's bit
A ship's rudder
A fire
A wild animal

This seemingly innocent and relatively small body part is being revealed for what it really is: **the most powerful, perverted and polluting part of your body!**

Since our everyday conversations happen in the most ordinary of circumstances we can easily forget how significant they are.

Verse 8: a *restless* evil, *deadly* poison.

3. The tongue is a monster of inconsistency (James 3:9-12)

Why is the tongue so important?
Because God speaks. The gift of speech is *like* God.

James 3:10 - Forceful protest!

Is it unthinkable to you?
Does it make you feel sick?

Ask God for a heightened respect for the image of God displayed around us.

Ephesians 4:29-5:2

Tweets, facebook, email and text messaging

Our thumbs are on the move! They unleash thoughts and words at a pace that's hard to control – and that's the problem.

4. The tongue is a revealer of the heart (James 3:11-18)

James 3:11-12

James goes behind the physical tongue to the real source of speech, the heart.

- **Luke 6:45**
- **Mark 7:20-23**

1 Peter 2:22-25

James 3:13-16

A striving, self-oriented heart is on display.

James 3:17-18

A conquered, God-centered (humbled) heart is on display.