

## TAMING THE TONGUE

'I have often regretted my speech, never my silence.' PUBLIUS

JAMES 3:1

Our words are powerful and come with great responsibility.

I tell you that on the day of judgment people will have to account for every careless word they speak. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned." Matthew 12:36-37

JAMES 3:2

Before judging anyone too harshly, remember we are all guilty.

"A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." Prov. 15:1

JAMES 3:3-6

- Our mouth is powerful.
- Our mouth determines our destination.
- Just a few words can bring about our destruction.

A maturing believer's speech will become increasingly more consistent.

The Lord hates six things; in fact, seven are detestable to Him: 17 arrogant eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, 18 a heart that plots wicked schemes, feet eager to run to evil, 19 a lying witness who gives false testimony, and one who stirs up trouble among brothers. Proverbs 6:16-19

No foul language is to come from your mouth, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear. Ephesians 4:29

JAMES 3:11-12

We are who our mouth says we are.

Brood of vipers! How can you speak good things when you are evil? For the mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart. Matthew 12:34

ANSWER TO TAMING THE TONGUE: CPR

1. CONFESS
2. PRACTICE
3. RETHINK

### FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR STUDY: (IN WORSHIP FOLDER)

CHECK ONE (if you were forced to choose):

\_\_\_\_\_ I'm most prone to lying

\_\_\_\_\_ I'm most prone to telling a half-truth

\_\_\_\_\_ I'm most prone to cussing and swearing

\_\_\_\_\_ I'm most prone to complaining about others, work, or church

\_\_\_\_\_ I'm most prone to gossiping about others

\_\_\_\_\_ I'm most prone to boasting

We all have problems with saying things that we shouldn't. James clearly challenges us to work on controlling our tongue. This is a great test of character. How willing are you to stretch yourself in this area? Explain.

What are the examples James uses to get his point across? Are there any examples you would add? If so, what.

Where do you encounter problems with your tongue and envy?

When are these problems and issue for you?

Why did James think it was so important to include these problems?

How does this apply to your life? How are you going to live differently this week because of what you have heard and read?