

BOOT CAMP: EQUIPPING MEN OF
INTEGRITY FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE

CHAPTER 10:

Sins of the Tongue



Taming
the
TONGUE

WE SHOULD CHOOSE WORDS WITH GREAT WISDOM

- When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise. (Proverbs 10:19, NASB)

WHAT KIND OF PROBLEMS DOES
OUR UNBRIDLED TONGUE CREATE
FOR US ACCORDING TO JAMES?

BITTER JEALOUSY, SELFISH
AMBITION, ARROGANCE, LYING,
FIGHTING, QUARRELING,
CONFLICTS

IT IS NOT THE MUSCLE IN YOUR MOUTH BUT IS YOUR HEART THAT BRINGS TROUBLE

Who among you is wise and understanding?
Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in
the gentleness of wisdom. ...The wisdom from
above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle,
reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits,
unwavering, without hypocrisy. ...Cleanse your
hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you
double-minded. (Jas 3.13, 17; 4.8, NASB)

The Rotten Fruit
that Sprouts
from a Corrupt
Heart

Taking the Name of the Lord in Vain

- “BLESSED BE YOUR GLORIOUS NAME, WHICH IS EXALTED ABOVE ALL BLESSING AND PRAISE” (NEH 9.5)
- ONE WAY THAT WE TAKE HIS NAME IN VAIN IS THROUGH USING IT IN CURSING
- ANOTHER WAY IS TO USE HIS NAME WITHOUT TRUE MEANING
- WE CAN ALSO TAKE HIS NAME IN VAIN WHEN WE CALL OURSELVES “CHRISTIAN” BUT DON’T WALK IN GOD’S WAYS

LYING

- KEEP YOUR TONGUE FROM EVIL AND YOUR LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT” (PSA 34.12–13)
- OF THE SEVEN THINGS THAT GOD SAYS HE HATES IN PROVERBS 6, TWO OF THEM ARE CENTERED AROUND LYING.
- WE ARE IMAGE BEARERS OF CHRIST...WE DO A GREAT DISSERVICE TO GOD AND OUR HEART WHEN WE VIOLATE OUR INTEGRITY
- “DO NOT LIE TO ONE ANOTHER, SEEING THAT YOU HAVE PUT OFF THE OLD SELF WITH ITS PRACTICES AND HAVE PUT ON THE NEW SELF, WHICH IS BEING RENEWED IN KNOWLEDGE AFTER THE IMAGE OF ITS CREATOR” (COL 3.9–10). ENOUGH SAID

FLATTERY

- I APPEAL TO YOU, BROTHERS, TO WATCH OUT FOR THOSE WHO CAUSE DIVISIONS AND CREATE OBSTACLES CONTRARY TO THE DOCTRINE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN TAUGHT; AVOID THEM. FOR SUCH PERSONS DO NOT SERVE OUR LORD CHRIST, BUT THEIR OWN APPETITES, AND BY SMOOTH TALK AND FLATTERY THEY DECEIVE THE HEARTS OF THE NAIVE. (ROM 16.17–18)
- TO SPEAK WORDS OF FLATTERY WILL CAUSE DIVISIONS IN THE BODY OF CHRIST
- WE MUST ALWAYS SPEAK THE TRUTH “IN LOVE”
- AS WE ARE LIVING IN COMMUNITY TOGETHER WE MUST NOT FLATTER TO GAIN PROMOTION OR FURTHER OUR ON AGENDA...THAT IS THE WAY OF THE WORLD NOT THE WAY OF CHRIST.

BOASTING

- “SHALL THE AXE BOAST OVER HIM WHO HEWS WITH IT, OR THE SAW MAGNIFY ITSELF AGAINST HIM WHO WIELDS IT? AS IF A ROD SHOULD WIELD HIM WHO LIFTS IT, OR AS IF A STAFF SHOULD LIFT HIM WHO IS NOT WOOD! “LET NOT THE WISE MAN BOAST IN HIS WISDOM, LET NOT THE MIGHTY MAN BOAST IN HIS MIGHT, LET NOT THE RICH MAN BOAST IN HIS RICHES, BUT LET HIM WHO BOASTS BOAST IN THIS, THAT HE UNDERSTANDS AND KNOWS ME, THAT I AM THE LORD WHO PRACTICES STEADFAST LOVE, JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS IN THE EARTH. FOR IN THESE THINGS I DELIGHT, DECLARES THE LORD.” (JER 9.23–24)

- “LET THE ONE WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD. FOR IT IS NOT THE ONE WHO COMMENDS HIMSELF WHO IS APPROVED, BUT THE ONE WHOM THE LORD COMMENDS” (2 COR 10.17–18)
- IF WE WANT TO BOAST IN THE DEEDS OF OUR FLESH WE WILL BE GIVEN OUR REWARD IN THE PRAISE OF MEN ALONE.
- WHEN WE PRAISE GOD AND BOAST IN HIM, THE LORD WILL PROMOTE US AND GIVE US FAVOR NOT ONLY WITH GOD AND MEN.

SLANDER

- “DO NOT SPEAK EVIL AGAINST ONE ANOTHER, BROTHERS. THE ONE WHO SPEAKS AGAINST A BROTHER OR JUDGES HIS BROTHER, SPEAKS EVIL AGAINST THE LAW AND JUDGES THE LAW” (JAS 4.11–12)
- WE ARE WARNED NOT TO SPEAK EVIL WORDS AGAINST OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS. WE HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFUL OF OUR WORDS.

COMPLAINING AND GRUMBLING

- “IN EVERYTHING YOU DO, STAY AWAY FROM COMPLAINING AND ARGUING, SO THAT NO ONE CAN SPEAK A WORD OF BLAME AGAINST YOU” (PHIL 2.14, NLT)
- “INSTEAD LET THERE BE THANKSGIVING” (EPH 5.4)
- CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO GO 24 HOURS WITHOUT COMPLAINING

FILTHY LANGUAGE CRUDE TALK

- “NOW YOU MUST PUT THEM ALL AWAY: ANGER, WRATH, MALICE, SLANDER, AND OBSCENE TALK FROM YOUR MOUTH” (COL 3.8)
- I CANNOT PROMOTE FILTHINESS AND STILL FIND MYSELF STANDING AT ATTENTION IN THE RANKS OF HOLINESS. I CANNOT REVEL IN OBSCENITY AND LEWDNESS WITHOUT STEPPING OUT OF LINE
- TOO MANY TIMES WE ARE GUILTY OF EMBRACING WORDS AND PRESENTING OURSELVES AS THE WORLD DOES...NO INTEGRITY IN THIS LOOSE TONGUED LIFE.

CARELESS WORDS

- MATTHEW 12.36–37: “I TELL YOU, ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT PEOPLE WILL GIVE ACCOUNT FOR EVERY CARELESS WORD THEY SPEAK, FOR BY YOUR WORDS YOU WILL BE JUSTIFIED, AND BY YOUR WORDS YOU WILL BE CONDEMNED.”
- ONCE WE SPEAK WORDS, WE CAN'T TAKE THEM BACK

WE HAVE TO REALIZE THE STAKES

- THE MAIN EVIDENCE OF OUR SPIRITUALITY COMES OUT OF OUR MOUTHS.
- IF WE CONSIDER OUR WORDS BEFORE WE SPEAK THEM, WE WILL WALK IN GREATER INTEGRITY
- THE POWER OF THE TONGUE SHOULD BE USED TO SPEAK BLESSINGS ON THOSE WE COME IN CONTACT WITH AND PRAISE AND ADORATION TO THE LORD OUR GOD.