

IN TOUCH

TAMING THE TONGUE

Dear Friend:

Have you ever said something to someone you wish you could take back? It did not take 2 seconds to regret what you said. If we are honest, we have all done this. I went to six years of college knowing I was going to be a pastor and not once did I ever see a course on managing your mouth. James says a great deal about mouth management, tongue control (see James 2:1-12). I know during college the professor had us dig into James. We learned how to interpret the Greek, how to parse nouns, history of James, etc. Sadly, nothing from the professor about the personal application of James, just academics.

You, like me do not need a college degree to know how to manage your mouth. Also, like me, you probably got plenty of education about controlling the tongue from your parents (particularly mom).

I want to dissect James 2:1-12 so that we can learn about mouth control. In James 2:3-4 James warns us about the power of the tongue. James uses great illustrations to teach us about mouth control: the power of the horse and the bit, and a rudder on a ship. The tongue directs us where we go. James' second lesson about our tongue is found in vs. 5 & 6. "The tongue us also a fire. It can do great destruction. You know the damage a fire can do. Gossip is a destroyer. One definition of gossip is: "Sharing private information about (true or false) others without their permission". A good rule to stop gossiping is: would you share this personal information if they were standing beside you? James' third lesson about the tongue is: our tongue displays who we really are (v.10-12). According to these verses we can be inconsistent. When we call people idiots and use put-downs, we have an ego problem or a self-image problem. We put others down seeking to lift ourselves up. Beware of the amount of damage your 3-inch tongue can do!

In Christ's Love, Pastor Mike

Events: Sunday: It's book giveaway day!

Monday, July 10, 7:00 p.m. Management Team Meeting

Prayer Requests: Cathy Cooley (heart transplant), Sue Sloan (liver transplant), For people you know who don't know Jesus!

