

Governing The Tongue

- I. Man's tongue is his glory. **PSA 30:12; 16:8-9 c/w ACT 2:25-26.**
 - A. Man is distinguished from the brute creation by his power of diverse, complex oral communication in both concrete and abstract ideas.
 - B. Man was made after the similitude of God (**JAM 3:9**) Who communicated to man His will by His mouth in intelligent speech. **GEN 1:27-31; 2:16-17.**
 - 1. Man accordingly communicated in intelligent speech. **GEN 2:23.**
 - 2. The serpent *spoke* to Eve. **GEN 3:1.**
 - 3. All persons present before sin entered the natural creation communicated orally.
 - C. "Death and life are in the power of the tongue..." (**PRO 18:21**).
- II. Sin corrupted man's speech. **ROM 3:13-14.**
 - A. By nature, our first action following birth is a perverse use of the tongue. **PSA 58:3.**
 - B. Other members of the body can each commit sin but the tongue has a capacity to commit many different sins, including:
 - 1. Indiscriminate cursing. **JAM 3:9.**
 - 2. Blasphemy. **LEV 24:11.**
 - 3. Lying (including false accusation, deceit, seduction). **EPH 4:25; 1TI 4:2.**
 - 4. Railing (uttering abusive language). **MAR 15:29.**
 - 5. Backbiting (slander, defamation of character). **2CO 12:20.**
 - 6. Whispering (malicious insinuation, secret slander). **2CO 12:20.**
 - 7. Debate (ungodly dissension, quarrelling, wrangling). **ROM 1:29.**
 - 8. Talebearing (unsolicited spread of private matters for malice or idle curiosity). **PRO 20:19.**
 - 9. Flattery (false or insincere praise). **PRO 20:19; 29:5; PSA 5:9.**
 - 10. Boasting (bragging, extolling oneself). **ROM 1:30; JAM 4:16.**
 - 11. Inconvenient (unsuitable, inappropriate) jestings/foolish speech. **EPH 5:4.**
 - 12. Filthy communication. **COL 3:8.**
 - 13. Murmuring/complaining. **JUDE 1:16.**
 - 14. Praising the wicked. **PRO 28:4.**
 - 15. Praising devils/false gods/idols. **DAN 5:4 c/w 1CO 10:20.**
 - C. Satan has a particular bent towards mouth sins. **JOB 1:11; LUK 20:20 ct/w TIT 2:8.**
 - D. The sinful use of the mouth is high on God's hate list. **PRO 8:13; 6:16-19.**
 - E. God will have the last word. **ROM 3:4, 19.**
- III. The management of our tongue is a weighty concern.
 - A. An ungoverned tongue invalidates religion. **JAM 1:26.**
 - B. Our speech is a gauge of what fills our hearts. **MAT 12:34-35.**
 - C. Our speech is a consideration in the judgment. **MAT 12:36-37; JUDE 1:15.**
 - D. Our relieving hope is grace. **ISA 6:5-7.**
- IV. James elaborates on the tongue in the third chapter of his epistle.
 - A. The person who controls his tongue has a better chance of controlling the rest of the body. **JAM 3:2-4; PRO 21:23; 1PE 3:10.**
 - 1. Like the horse, the tongue must be taught obedience. **PRO 16:23 c/w PSA 32:9.**
 - 2. It must be brought into subjection. **1CO 9:27 c/w PSA 106:32-33.**
 - 3. A firm resolve is needed beforehand. **PSA 39:1.**
 - 4. Taming a lion is an easier task. **JAM 3:7-8.**

5. Through faith the tongue can be tamed. **1JO 5:4; PHIL 4:13.**
 - B. Like a small fire, an unconfined tongue can cause widespread damage. **JAM 3:5-6.**
 1. Fire is a good servant in the hearth, but a terrible master when not confined.
 2. So is the tongue: a blessing when controlled, but a curse when not.
 3. Mouth sins defile the whole body. An unrestrained tongue is often a doorway to other sins. **ECC 5:6.**
 - C. The tongue has the capacity for good and evil. **JAM 3:9-12; PRO 18:21.**
 1. Why use the tongue for destructive purposes when it can be used for edifying purposes? **PRO 12:18; 15:1; 25:11.**
 2. Christian temperance means blessing, not cursing persecutors. **ROM 12:14.**
- V. Here are other considerations in the government of the tongue.
- A. There is a time to be silent. **ECC 3:7.**
 - B. Don't be hasty to speak. **JAM 1:19; PRO 18:13; ECC 5:2-3.**
 1. Think before you speak. **PSA 39:2-3.**
 2. Think twice before you speak once.
 - C. Limit speech. **PRO 10:19; 29:11 ct/w 17:28.**
 - D. Think scripturally; speak scripturally. **1PE 4:11.**
 - E. Don't be too hasty or stringent in judging others for errors in their speech. **ECC 7:21-22; ISA 29:20-21.**
- VI. Consider these holy and constructive employments of the tongue:
- A. Praying. **EPH 6:18.**
 - B. Praising God and giving thanks. **HEB 13:15; EPH 5:19.**
 - C. Comforting one another. **1TH 4:18.**
 - D. Exhorting and admonishing one another. **ROM 15:14; HEB 10:25.**
 - E. Confessing Christ. **MAT 10:32.**
 - F. Witnessing and defending the gospel. **1PE 3:15; JUDE 1:3.**
 - G. Speaking up for those who can't defend themselves. **PRO 31:8.**
- VII. The ultimate model of excellent speech and a governed tongue is the Lord Jesus Christ. **1PE 2:22; LUK 4:22 c/w COL 4:6.**
- A. Christ was not dainty in speech but spoke with authority and rebuked as needed. **MAR 1:22; MAT 23:13-39; MAR 8:33.**
 - B. Christ cursed a fig tree by faith. **MAR 11:14, 21 c/w JOH 8:29 c/w HEB 11:6.**
 1. This was the same Man Whose lips were full of grace. **PSA 45:2; LUK 4:22.**
 2. Learn to discern between occasional cursing and having one's mouth *full* of cursing. **ROM 3:14; PRO 10:32; 25:11.**
 - C. Good words and fair speeches may be misused. **ROM 16:18; 2PE 2:18.**
- VIII. Pray David's prayers. **PSA 141:3; 19:14.**