

Youth Sat 6/26 WATCH YO MOUTH!

James wrote that if we can control our tongue the rest of our body will be OK.

³ When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.

⁴ Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.

⁵ Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.

James 3:3-5 (NIV)

He compared our tongue to a bit in a horse's mouth, a match that starts a forest fire, or the rudder of a great ship. Think about it! What do those pictures say to you?

⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

James 3:6 (NIV)

Your words set the whole course of your life. Can you see how that is true? Give me an illustration. Where does this verse say the fire comes from? I've listened to youth and they can be as cruel as it gets. We mask put downs with humor but you hurt the person as badly as if you'd picked up a bat and whacked them. Then this chain reaction thing gets going. They try to mask the hurt by putting you down. There goes the wild fire. Now where again did the Bible say this started? HELL! Do you like being an instrument of evil? What are you gonna do about it. Just keep letting hell use you? You have a choice.

⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness.

¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.

James 3:9-10 (NIV)

Where do words come from? Right out of our heart. If there are mixed signals from your mouth what is the problem? A divided heart is. Maybe you need to decide who you are living for and what your life is about. Once that is decided take charge of your mouth. God will help you. You know you can pray for his help because it is his will for you to get it under control and use it for God.

How does the enemy, Satan, use a Christian's untamed tongue in the life of unbelievers? You've seen it, and probably been affected by it. What you need to do is acknowledge you've been the instrument of Satan at times to push kids away from Jesus, because your tongue was out of control.

¹¹ Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.

¹² There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you--who are you to judge your neighbor?

James 4:11-12 (NIV)

What royal law are you breaking? (hint: love neighbor as self) ²¹ For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.

²³ All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'"

Mark 7:21-23 (NIV)

If you think put downs are cool, check out what God thinks about it:

⁵ Whoever slanders his neighbor in secret, him will I put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, him will I not endure.

Psalms 101:5 (NIV)

Paul and Peter both wrote to rid ourselves of slander. How can we do that?

David prayed for help with the same problem ³ Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips. Psalms 141:3 (NIV)

Do you think God helped him by answering that prayer. Maybe God's spirit is leading you to pray the same kind of prayer and get serious about seeing your mouth used for God – used to encourage people and point them to Jesus, instead of an instrument of Hell. Remember if we get this area of our life down the other problems will follow. That's because it is a heart thing. You get your heart right with God and your mouth will follow. Then the rest of your actions will too.

Master your tongue and you'll master your life!