

The Power of Speech

James 3:1 - 12



THE POWER OF SPEECH

James 3:1-12 “My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. 2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he [is] a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. 3 Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. 4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. 5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! 6 And the tongue [is] a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. 8 But no man can tame the tongue. [It is] an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring send forth fresh [water] and bitter from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.”

SPEECH IS A GIFT

- ❖ Genesis 1:3 “Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.
 - ❖ Psalms 33:9 “For He spoke, and it was [done]; He commanded, and it stood fast.”
 - ❖ Hebrews 11:3 “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”
- ❖ Genesis 2:16 “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;"

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- ❖ Genesis 2:19-20 “Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought [them] to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that [was] its name. 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.”
- ❖ Genesis 2:23 “And Adam said: “This [is] now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.”

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- ◆ Genesis 1:27 “So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

“Of the millions of biological creatures that adorn the planet, only humans have the ability to communicate through verbalized speech. Clearly, speech is a very special gift from the Creator.” Wayne Jackson

SPEECH FOR GOOD

- ❖ Praising our Creator: Psalm 18:3 “I will call upon the LORD, [who is worthy] to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.”
 - ❖ Psalm 19:14 “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.”
- ❖ Preaching and Teaching: Mark 16:15-16 “And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

SPEECH FOR GOOD

❖ To bless others

- ❖ 1 Corinthians 14:3 “But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.”
- ❖ 2 Timothy 4:2 “Preach the word! Be ready in season [and] out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.”
- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 4:18 “Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

Proverbs 25:11 “A word fitly spoken [is like] apples of gold In settings of silver.”

SPEECH FOR EVIL

- ❖ Deny the Creator: Psalms 14:1 “To the Chief Musician. [A Psalm] of David. The fool has said in his heart, “[There is] no God.” They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good.”
 - ❖ Isaiah 29:16 “Surely you have things turned around! Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay; For shall the thing made say of him who made it, “He did not make me”? Or shall the thing formed say of him who formed it, “He has no understanding”?”

SPEECH FOR EVIL

- ❖ Speak false doctrine: 2 Corinthians 4:2 “But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.”
- ❖ Lying: Psalm 59:12 “[For] the sin of their mouth [and] the words of their lips, Let them even be taken in their pride, And for the cursing and lying [which] they speak.”
 - ❖ Proverbs 6:19 “A false witness [who] speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.”

SPEECH FOR EVIL

- ❖ Blasphemy
- ❖ Flattery
- ❖ Gossip
- ❖ Double tongue
- ❖ and so many more

PROFANITY

- ❖ What is profanity?
 - ❖ “An offensive or obscene word or phrase” Cambridge Dictionary
 - ❖ From Oxford Dictionary
 - ❖ “Blasphemous or obscene language”
 - ❖ “A swear word; an oath”
 - ❖ “Irreligious or irreverent behavior”

PROFANITY

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 - ❖ Guidelines and principles are provided to instruct us
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Matthew 5:22 “But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.”

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Galatians 3:1 “O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?”

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Galatians 3:10, 13 “10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed [is] everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." ... 13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed [is] everyone who hangs on a tree”),"

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James 3:9-10 “With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.”

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 - ❖ Treating holy/sacred words as common

Exodus 20:7 “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold [him] guiltless who takes His name in vain.”

PROFANITY

- ❖ Things to avoid:
 - ❖ Lascivious speech: 2 Peter 2:18
 - ❖ Corrupt communication: Ephesians 4:29
 - ❖ Filthy, Foolish, or coarse jesting speech: Ephesians 5:3-4
 - ❖ Blaspheming or Profaning God

SPEECH MATTERS

- ❖ Pure Speech (Colossians 4:5-6)
- ❖ We can't forget to blush (Jeremiah 6:15)
- ❖ Our speech reveals the heart (Matthew 15:18-20)
- ❖ Our speech is to be transformed after we turn to God (1 Peter 2:1-3)
- ❖ We are not to conform to this world (Romans 12:2)
- ❖ Speak the truth (Ephesians 4:15)

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