

Sunday, April 7, 2019—Body Building: Corrupt Communication, Part 2 (Principles Regarding the Tongue)

### **Introduction**

- Romans 14:19—the second segment of this series is devoted to looking at things that make for peace among the brethren and edify the body of Christ.
- Ephesians 4:29-31—evil speaking does not make for peace among the saints. Evil speaking takes away peace and doesn't edify.
  - *Corrupt*—rotten, putrefied, 2) corrupted by one and no longer fit for use, worn out, 3) of poor quality, bad, unfit for use, worthless
  - *Edifying*—building up, the act of one who promotes another's growth in Christian wisdom, piety, happiness, holiness
  - *Evil Speaking*—slander, detraction, speech injurious, to another's good name, 2) impious and reproachful speech injurious to divine majesty.
- Job 19:2
- Matthew 12:36—idle words come from the following sources:
  - Stress of everyday life, causes of the say things we don't mean
  - Exposure to negative speech patterns: angry boss, parent, crude language in TV, Music, movies, and video games
  - Sarcastic Conversation
  - Idle chatter
- Ephesians 4:29—uncontrolled speech or corrupt communication doesn't edify and robs believers of peace. We need to understand timebomb of the tongue that we are all sitting on.

### **Principle 1: Controlled Speech Is a Measure of Maturity**

- James 3:2
- *Offend*—means to cause one to stumble or fall, to stumble i.e. to err, make a mistake, to sin, to fall into misery, become wretched

- Feet that stumble can bring you whole body crashing to the ground, and a tongue that offends is no less a threat. Therefore, an offending tongue reflects spiritual immaturity.
- *Perfect*—literally means complete or mature.
- The implication is clear; we are never spiritually mature until we no longer trip people up with our words.
- Proverbs 10:32
- Matthew 12:34
- Luke 6:45—how we talk and what comes out of our mouths reflects what we are minding in our walk not who we are at our core.
  - Romans 5:5—the Holy Ghost resides in the heart of every believer.
  - Galatians 4:6
  - Ephesians 4:22—corrupt communication is the result of minding the things of the flesh and the old man.
- That is why controlled speech is a measure of maturity.

### **Principle 2: The Tongue is Small but Significant**

- James 3:3-5
- Small words have started wars, resulting in thousands of lives lost. How many marriage and relationships that once set sail on a joyous adventure had been steered onto the rocks by a faulty rudder?
- We tend to think that small things are insignificant. How can a few words do serious damage? But ignoring the problem is like ignoring termites nesting in your house.

### **Principle 3: Our Words Are Potentially Combustible**

- James 3:6
- We tend to tolerate a bit of fire in our speech, thinking it can do no harm. But fire spread quickly—often before you realize it. After a raging fire has done its damage it doesn't matter whether or not it was intentional.

- *Iniquity*—injustice, uprightness
- *Setteth on fire*—to ignite, to burn up, to operate destructively, that of which the destructive influences are kindled.
- *Course*—is defined as a wheel
- Matthew 15:11-20
- Just as Mrs. O’Leary’s cow burned down the city of Chicago in 1871 so our mouths contain the same destructive capacity.
- The seriousness of the tongue’s destructive potential is revealed in the truth that “it is set on fire of hell.” It is a world of iniquity, literally an entire network of sin. We have an organized crime syndicate right in our mouths. Our tongues have the capacity to corrupt our entire beings. Nothing is exempt from the damage our tongues can cause.

#### **Principle 4: The Tongue is Like a Wild and Deadly Beast**

- James 3:7-8
- What type of animal has mankind not sought to tame?
- Yet we have not been able to tame our tongues. If we don’t bring our speech habits under the Spirit’s control, our tongues will be “full of deadly poison.”
- Psalm 140:3
- Romans 3:13-14
  - Ephesians 4:29, 17-19—when a believer cannot control their speech they are walking like the lost man or woman that they used to be.

#### **Principle 5: The Tongue Tends to Promote a Double Standard**

- James 3:9-12
- Someone once said that most tongues are tied in the middle, wagging at both ends.
- It amazing how we can verbally poison other people all the way to church, but as soon as we pull into the parking lot we begin to speak out of the pious side of our mouths.
- II Corinthians 5:17

- Ephesians 5—this type of communication is to be put off and out of the believer’s life.

### **Conclusion**

- In these five principals James categorizes the dark and shifty potential of the tongue. The first step toward victory is to permit these truths to penetrate our minds and hearts.
- A transformed tongue must be a top priority for those committed to spiritual growth.
- Members of the Body of Christ we ought not be insensitive to the problems of destructive speech.
- We often excuse one another with a number of rationalizations.
  - “Well, it’s the truth, isn’t it?”
  - “If they didn’t want people to talk, they never should have done it.”
  - “Let me share this with you so we can pray more intelligently.”
  - “I heard this from a reliable source, or I wouldn’t be repeating it.”
- Until we get serious about bringing our tongues under control of the Holy Spirit, our churches, schools, homes, families, and friendships will continue to be victimized.