

Use And Abuse Of The Tongue 4019

I. General Warnings

- A. Ps. 34:11–13—The fear of the Lord begins with the control of the tongue.
- B. Prov. 13:3—To keep your mouth is to keep your soul (compare Prov. 21:23).
- C. Prov. 15:4—We eat the fruit of our own tongue An uncontrolled tongue is a leak in the spirit.
- D. Prov. 18:21—The tongue determines death and life.
- E. Song. 4:3,11—Christ’s bride is distinguished by the purity and beauty of her lips.
- F. Matt. 12:33–37—What comes out of your mouth reveals what is in our heart.
- G. Col. 4:6—Our speech should create in others appetite for what we have.
- H. James 1:26—If you do not control your tongue, your religion is vain.
- I. James 3:2–10—The use of your tongue determines the course of your life.

II. Specific Problems

- A. Excessive talking
 - Prov. 10:19—This denotes sin and folly (compare Eccl. 5:3)
- B. Idle words
 - 1. Matt. 12:36—This brings judgment.
 - 2. Matt. 5:37—Say what you mean—no more, and no less.
- C. Gossip
 - 1. Lev. 19:16—Warning against a talebearer (compare Prov. 18:8; 20:19; 26:20).
 - 2. Jer. 18:18—It is possible to kill a person with the tongue.
 - 3. 1 Tim. 5:13—Warning against idleness and gossip.
 - 4. 1 Pet. 4:15—A busybody ranks with a murderer, a thief and an evildoer.
- D. Lying
 - 1. Prov. 6:16–19—Three of the seven abominations relate to the tongue (compare Prov. 12:22).
 - 2. John 8:44—Traced to its source, every lie comes from the devil.
 - 3. Rev. 21:8, 27; 22:15—Liars have no place in heaven.
- E. Flattery
 - Ps. 12:1–3—God will judge all insincerity and flattery (compare Prov. 26:28; 29:5)
- F. Hastiness
 - 1. Prov. 29:20—Hasty speech is more harmful than foolishness.
 - 2. Ps. 106:32–33—A provoked spirit results in ill-advised words.
- G. Negative talk
 - Num. 13:30–31—Negative confession denies the power of God and costs us our inheritance

III. The Remedy

- A. Matt. 12:33–34—Recognize that the problem is in your heart (compare James 3:10–11; Prov. 18–21; 4:23).
- B. 1 John 1:7, 9—Confess, receive forgiveness and cleansing.
- C. Rom. 6:12–13—Refuse sin, yield to God.
- D. Ps. 16:9; Acts 2:26—Understand the true purpose of your tongue.
- E. Ps. 34:1–3—Decide to praise God in all circumstances (compare Ps. 35:28; 63:3–

- 5).
- F.** Heb. 3:1—Remember that Christ is the *high priest of your confession* (compare Heb. 4:14; 10:23).
 - G.** Matt. 18:15–17—Submit to the discipline of the Body.

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