

THE INCONSISTENCY OF THE TONGUE

(James 3:7-12)

I. SPEECH AND DIVINE WISDOM (3:1-12)

A. James Uses Several Examples of the Uncontrollable Nature of the Tongue (3:1-6)

B. The Untamable Tongue (3:7-8)

1. Ancient civilizations took pride in their ability as humans to be able to _____ (or tame) nearly every _____ of creature known to man. (v. 7)

2. Wilder than any animal, the tongue resides in its den behind your teeth; no _____ can tame it, but the _____ can. (v. 8)
 - a. The tongue reveals the heart, it is “*unruly*” or _____, and it can certainly be used for _____.

 - b. Like the “*poison*” of a serpent (Ps. 140:3), the tongue is loaded with the _____ of hate and gossip that can _____ a meaningful relationship. (Prov. 11:9)

C. The Inconsistency of the Tongue (3:9-12)

1. In his final indictment against the tongue in this section, James attributed to it that double standard which he deplored so much...
 - a. The _____ - _____ man who is unstable in all his ways (1:7-8)

 - b. The person who shows _____ to one over another (2:2-4)

 - c. Being justified by faith alone before God, but then _____ to be justified by works before men (2:14-26)

2. It is _____ that the same instrument from our bodies that is used to _____ the Lord, is also used to _____ other people, who were made in the image of God. (v. 9)

3. James states emphatically that this inconsistency in our Christian walk simply _____ be, because we know it is the very definition of a _____. (v. 10)

4. While the believer presently has the indwelling Holy Spirit, and thus, the potential for controlling the tongue, he/she may not be _____ this potential by _____.

5. James declares the incompatibility of a pure heart and impure speech with a few illustrations; each of these are in the form of a rhetorical question, anticipating “No” for an answer...
 - a. In nature a spring does not bring forth fresh water and bitter water, but with the human heart a _____ - _____ Christian can bring forth both. (v. 11)

 - b. In nature a fig tree cannot bear olives, but with a _____ - _____ heart, both blessings and cursing come forth together out of the same being. (v. 12a)

 - c. In nature a spring cannot produce both fresh water and salt water, but there is something radically _____ when the human heart _____ bubbles forth both from the same mouth. (v. 12b)

* How can you personally apply this truth from this passage?