
Wisdom for Living: Watch Your Mouth and Walk in Wisdom

James 3:1-18

The Problems of the Tongue (7-12)

- It cannot be tamed by human efforts (7-8)
- It does not remain consistent (9-12)
- **Blesses** God (speaks well of); **Curses** those made in His image
 - **Curse others through gossip** (speaking behind one's back what you won't say to one's face)
 - **Curse others through flattery** (speaking to one's face what you won't say behind one's back)
 - **Curse others through criticism** (harsh judgment)
 - **Curse others through written communications** (emails, text messages, social media)

HOW DO I WATCH MY MOUTH?

I seek to have my heart cleansed continually

- *Ps 19:12-14*
- ***Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks!***

I ask God to keep my mouth under control

- *Ps 141:3-4 NLT*

I do my part to corral my words (an enclosure formed to avoid seizure)

- *Ps. 34:12-13*
- *Prov. 21:23*

WALK IN WISDOM

The tongue is contained in a cage of teeth and lips, but it still escapes. It is not intelligence that keeps the lock on that cage; it is wisdom – a wisdom that is characterized by humility, grace, and peace.

Definitive Question (v. 13)

- **Wise** – #4680 *sophos* – moral insight and skill in the practical issues of life.
- **Understanding** – #1990 *epistemon* – intellectual perception and knowledge
- **Meekness** – #4240 *prautes* – humility
- ***The person who is truly wise is humble.***

Demonic Wisdom (v. 14-16)

- **Bitter envy** – piercing jealousy (Prov. 14:30 – *A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.*)
- **Self-seeking** – selfish ambition
- ***The person who is truly wise is gracious and giving.***

Divine Wisdom (v. 17-18)

- **Pure** – clean, innocent
- **Peaceable** – at one in quiet rest
- **Gentle** – appropriate, moderate
- **Willing to yield** – good for persuasion; compliant
- **Full of mercy** – abundant compassion
- **Without partiality** –
- **Without hypocrisy** – not “two faced”
- ***The person who is truly wise is at peace***

HOW DO I WALK IN WISDOM? (Eph. 5:15-20)

Circumspectly = as through thorny terrain (exercise care so as not to negatively impact family or church by everyday decisions)

Redeem the time = make the most of every opportunity

Know God's will (Ex. “If you could only have one thing from God, what would it be?)

Be Spirit-filled = yield to the leadership and control of the Holy Spirit

Speak the Word = have a positive confession and a grateful attitude