

James 3:1-12 **Teachers Judged more severely – Evil of the Tongue**

Teachers held at greater accountability

1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

Danger of the Tongue

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.
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Teachers held at greater accountability [James 3:1]

✚ My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. [James 3:1]

✧ Teachers are ones who instruct others in things pertaining to godliness, and as such they are entrusted with the Word of God and are held responsible as stewards of the mysteries of God. [1 Corinthians 4:1-2, 9:17, Colossians 1:24-26, 1 Peter 4:10]

✧ Teachers will receive a stricter judgment because they influence the eternal destiny of those who hear them.

Danger of the Tongue [James 3:2-12]

✚ 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. [James 3:2]

✧ Human nature is such that almost all our emotions, feelings, perceptions, thoughts and imaginations pour out of our mouths by our words to self and to others in our reaction to every incident in our lives .

- ✧ Therefore if a person is able to control his words and limit his expressions for the betterment of those in his presence, James said he is a perfect man and will be able to control the use of any other member of his body.
- ✧ To illustrate the concept, James refers us to the bit in the mouth of a horse to control its actions, and the rudder of a ship to control its direction.
- ✧ The danger of the tongue is compared to the size of a forest fire started by such a small flame.
- ✧ The tongue being a small member of the body is able to do great damage when out of control.
- ✧ The damage is to those who are injured by our words, and the impact reaches to our own destiny, as wrongful use of the tongue places our soul in danger of Hell fire. [[James 3:6](#), [Matthew 5:22](#)]
- ✧ It is true, most creatures can be tamed by mankind as has been demonstrated in history.
- ✧ The tongue is our greatest problem: But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 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. [[James 3:8-10](#)]
- ✧ A sanctified tongue is one that leads to godly edification through teaching holy doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness. [[Romans 15:2](#), [1 Corinthians 14:26-27](#), [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)]
- ✧ As Paul said: "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things." [[Philippians 4:8](#)]
- ✧ As in nature, good and evil should not come from the same source. [[James 3:11-12](#)]