

BELOW THE SURFACE

Week 2: Controlling the Tongue

I. Recognize the _____ of the _____.

“We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.” – James 3:2

Stumble – “a moral or a spiritual failure.”

“When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.” – James 3:3-4

Ways Our Words Can Harm Others and Damage Our Witness –

1. _____.

2. _____.

“A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.” – Proverbs 16:28

Flattery is saying something to someone’s face that you would never say behind their back; gossip is saying something behind their back that you would never say to their face.

3. _____ or _____.

4. _____.

“But the cowardly, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all the liars – they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.” – Revelation 21:8

5. _____.

6. _____.

“Thou shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.” – Exodus 20:7

“Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!” – Psalm 8:9

“Moreover, I tell you this: on the Day of Judgment people will have to give account for every careless word they have spoken. By your words you’ll be justified. By your words you’ll be condemned.” – Matthew 12:36-37

If you want to change the direction of your life it begins by changing the words that you speak.

“Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.” – James 3:5-6

“A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.” – Luke 6:45

II. _____ how _____ our words can be.

“All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.” – James 3:7-8

Restless – “ready to break out at any time.”

“I have never been hurt by anything that I didn’t say.” – Calvin Coolidge

III. Use your words for _____ and for _____.

“With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.” – James 3:9-12

“We can’t use our mouths both for praising God and for slandering others.” – James 3:10

“Faith comes by hearing... hearing the word of God.” – Romans 10:17
