

# **Faith Without Works is Dead ~ Taming the Human Tongue**

James 2:26 - 4:17

Sunday, 2/28/2010

**Note 1:** If one reads James without feeling guilt, he is perfect, or he didn't read it very thoughtfully.

**Note 2:** If one teaches James without feeling guilt, he is perfect, or he didn't prepare very thoughtfully.

## **Parenthesis Surround the Tongue Talk**

- ( **Open:** "As the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead." ~ v. 2:26  
 ) **Close:** "So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin." ~ v. 4:17

## **Four Ways the Tongue Can Violate Faith**

### **1. True Faith won't assert itself as a teacher when one is not a teacher ~ v. 3:1**

**True Teacher:** One granted authority by others (or God) to instruct or manage others, according to an accepted standard of truth.

**False Teacher:** a) One who instructs/manages others without proper authority.  
b) One who instructs/manages others in violation of the standard of truth.

### **2. True Faith won't assert itself in arguing/fighting ~ vv. 4:1-10**

**Improper Passions:** You want, but don't get (your want is a demand?) ~ v. 1

**Improper Actions:** You covet; you murder (want so bad you'll mistreat others?) ~ v. 2

**Improper Prayer:** You ask, to consume on your lusts (asking God to help you sin?) ~ v.3

**Improper Worship:** You adulterers; friends of the world; enemies of God ~ v. 4-10

### **3. True Faith won't assert itself by grumbling (speaking evil, slander) ~ vv. 4:11-12**

= **Judging:** Render verdict and sentence. ~ v. 11&12

= **Exalt self over Law:** "speak evil against Law" ~ v. 11

= **Equals Disobey Law:** "not a doer of the Law" ~ v. 11

**Paul's take on grumbling:** God hates idolatry, sexual Immorality, & grumbling, and has made that perfectly clear. ~ see 1 Cor. 10:1-12

### **4. True Faith won't assert itself by boasting about the future ~ vv. 4:13-16**

**Claims too much:** We control our future v. we are a vapor ~ vv. 13-14

**Claims too little:** God unimportant to my future v. God essential to my future ~ v. 15

**Such boasting:** Is arrogant and evil ~ v. 16

### **Commitment Card (this is a private card between you and God)**

On the back side of this box is a series of commitments, built around these verses we've just looked at. At the end of today's sermon, you will be invited to initial each of these commitments.

As we continue to the back side of this outline, we're going to hear 4 "nuggets" that James included in his "tongues" section of his epistle. These nuggets serve to clarify and focus the challenges he gave to the Bride of Christ. God has called us to be a separate people, a people who don't "do life" the way the world does, or the way that Satan tempts.

Rather, we are called by God to simply do God's will, and to only do it God's way.

**Four Nuggets by Which we Might Check Ourselves**

1. **Teachers will be judged more strictly** ~ v. 3:2 ***Thus we must have good ones!***  
*Pray for our teachers:* that God would make clear His Word and will.  
*Hold our teachers to God's standards:* and not let a teacher slop or twist the Word of God.  
*Prepare our lessons rightly:* to teach God's Word the way God intends it.
  
2. **We all stumble in many ways** ~ v. 3:2 ***Thus we must . . .***  
*Strive for perfection:* in ourselves.  
*Not demand perfection:* from one another.  
*Not enable one another:* to continue in these sinful practices.
  
3. **The tongue brings huge consequences** ~ v. 3:3-6 ***Thus we must help one another to . . .***  
*Grow away* from the evil consequences of evil talk.  
*Grow toward* the good consequences of good talk.
  
4. **God and Satan will respond to our "lean"** ~ v. 4:6-8 ***Thus we must . . .***  
*Submit to God* and He will draw near (always do God's will God's way).  
*Resist the Devil* and he will flee (don't ever solve life's problems/issues his way).

**The Faithful Tongue v. The Unfaithful Tongue**

Faithful Use	v.	Unfaithful Use
True Teacher	v.	Presumptuous Teacher
True wisdom	v.	False wisdom
Bless God and bless men	v.	Bless God yet curse men
Good behavior	v.	Bitter jealousy
Good deeds	v.	Selfish ambition
Live by truth	v.	Lie against truth
Gentle	v.	Earthly
Pure	v.	Natural
Peaceable	v.	Demonic
Gentle	v.	Disorder
Reasonable	v.	Contentious
Full of mercy	v.	Every evil thing
Good fruits	v.	Impure
Unwavering	v.	Wishy washy, Chameleon
Without hypocrisy	v.	Hypocritical
Peacemaking	v.	Quarreling
Sow seed in peace	v.	Fighting
God's pleasure	v.	Selfish pleasure
God's desires	v.	Selfish Lust
God's love for another	v.	Murder
Contentment	v.	Envy
Ask God in Faith	v.	Don't ask God
Ask for God's purposes	v.	Ask for selfish purposes

Faithful Use	v.	Unfaithful Use
Friend of God	v.	Friend of world
Hostile toward world	v.	Hostile toward God
Enemy of world	v.	Enemy of God
Spirit gives more grace	v.	Spirit lusts toward envy?
God gives grace to humble	v.	God opposes proud
Submits to God	v.	Resists God
Resists the devil	v.	Submits to the devil
Devil flees	v.	Devil influences
Draws near to God	v.	Avoids God
God draws near	v.	God resists
Cleanses hands	v.	Doesn't cleanse hands
Cleanses heart	v.	Doesn't purify heart
Single-minded	v.	Double-minded
Speaks well of brothers	v.	Grumbles against brothers
Speaks for a brother	v.	Speaks against brother
Doesn't judge brother	v.	Judges brother
Speaks for the law	v.	Speaks against the Law
Doesn't judge the law	v.	Misjudges the Law
Doer of the law	v.	Doesn't do the Law
Isn't a judge	v.	Is judgmental
Submits to God as judge	v.	Usurps God as judge
Submits plans to God	v.	Boasts about plans
Testifies of God's hand	v.	Ignores God's hand

**Commitment Card (this is a private card between you and God)**

Before God, and before this congregation, I commit to the following (*initial the ones you agree with*):

- \_\_\_\_\_ I will let God teach me any and all the ways that I have been misusing my tongue.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will let God teach me all the right ways I should handle circumstances I used to mishandle.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will let God use this congregation to help me see when/where I still misspeak.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will let God use me to lovingly help others grow away from misspeaking.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will let God use me to lovingly help others grow toward rightly speaking.