
Stand-Alone Message

SELF-CONTROL: TAMING OUR TONGUES

James 3:1-8

By Jerod Starkey

James 3:1-8 - Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. **2** For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. **3** If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. **4** Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. **5** So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! **6** And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life and set on fire by hell. **7** For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, **8** but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

Self Control (or temperance) is a fruit of the spirit. Today, we look at self control specifically in the area of our speech. James gives us great insight and wisdom into the power of the tongue and some warnings about what happens when we live without the fruit of self control.

I. Course: “The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life”

II. Control: “But no human being can tame the tongue”

Matthew 15:18

III. Captain: “Wherever the will of the pilot directs”

Ephesians 4:29