

THE UNRULY MEMBER

James 3: 1 - 12
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INTRODUCTION

1. From the text we see the tongue has great power for good, and a great power for evil.
2. Here the Christian is warned to avoid the misuse and abuse of the tongue.
3. It is God's will that we learn to bridle our tongues – James 1:26; Psa. 39:1.
4. The man who does not learn to bridle his tongue makes his religion vain – James 1: 26.
5. Peter said the man *“that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile”* – I Pet. 3:10.
6. We all sin too much with the tongue.
7. We all need this lesson.
8. Let us look at some ways in which man can sin with the tongue.

I. **BY LYING – Eph. 4:25**

- a. What is it to be a LIAR?
 - i. To tell a falsehood and appear to be telling the truth.
 - ii. The facts may be told in such a way as to deceive the other party.
 - iii. Intention has a great deal to do with lying in order to make it a lie.
 - iv. A thing may be a lie, and not be spoken at all.
- b. Kinds of Liars – Rev. 21:8:
 - i. Jestling LIARS – Prov. 26: 18 – 19
 - ii. Cowardly LIARS – Abraham called Sarah his sister – Gen. 20: 2 – 12.
 - iii. Malicious LIARS – Potiphar's wife against Joseph – Gen. 39: 14 – 17.
 - iv. Commercial LIARS – Ananias and Sapphira – Acts 5: 1 – 10.
 - v. Social LIARS – Prov. 26: 28.
 - vi. Religious LIARS – I Tim. 4: 1- 6.
- c. What is the fate of the LIAR?? – Rev. 21:8; Prov. 6:16 – 19; John 8:44; Col. 3:9

II. **THE WHISPERER – Prov. 16: 27 – 28; 2 Cor. 12:20; Rom. 1:29**

- a. Of the many sins into which men fall, the position of the WHISPERER is certainly of the lowest.
- b. The WHISPERER is a cowardly sneak because he does not have the courage to come out in the open and say the damaging things about others he whispers to their back.
- c. The WHISPERER declares secretly, and with great reserve, the supposed faults of others.
- d. The WHISPERER is not particular as to the truth of what he tells.
- e. The WHISPERER sows discord among his brethren – Prov. 6:19.

III. **THE MURMURER – I Cor. 10:10; Phil. 2:14**

- a. Some don't like anything that is done.

- b. There are members always talking about what “THEY” are doing; they never say what “WE” are doing.
- c. The preacher or the preaching never suits these people.
 - i. The preacher doesn’t visit enough.
 - ii. Some members don’t know what the work of a preacher is, and the time it takes to do it.
 - 1. He is not to be burdened with “table serving” – Acts 6:1- 4.
- d. These people always complain about the men who are taking the lead, and they find fault with them.
- e. The church would not exist long in the hands of the MURMURERS.

IV. DECEITFUL SPEAKING – I Tim. 3:8

- a. Say one thing to one’s face and another to his back.
- b. Conceals one’s true feelings.

V. THE GOSSIPS AND TATTLERS – I Tim. 5:13; Lev. 19:16.

- a. Many are just like the old buzzard, they hunger for a carcass.
- b. Gossip and talebearing separates husbands and wives, causes hard feelings among brothers and sisters, and divides congregations of God’s people.

VI. HASTY WORDS – James 1:19; Prov. 29:11; 29:20

- a. Words once spoken cannot be recalled.
- b. The wound, and even the way you say you are sorry, leaves a scar.

VII. ANGRY WORDS

- a. “*Grievous words stir up anger*” – Prov. 15:1
- b. “*A soft answer turneth away wrath*” – Prov. 15:1.

VIII. SLANDER (false accusers)

- a. I Tim. 3: 11; 2 Tim. 3:3; Tit. 2:3; Psa. 101:5
- b. The reference is to those who are given to finding fault with the demeanor and conduct of others, and spreading their innuendos and criticisms in the church.
- c. Slander is an unproven rumor maliciously told for the purpose of injuring the influence or reputation of another.
- d. Slander is that which destroys a good name and fine reputation.
- e. When you take a man’s good name you have taken his most valuable possession – Prov. 22:1; Eccl. 7:1.
- f. Why do men and women slander one another?
 - i. Envy and jealousy in the heart gives birth to slander.
 - ii. When a man cannot equal another in virtue or in accomplishment, out of a heart of envy, he begins to slander.
- g. Two things are involved in Slander:
 - i. The ear and the tongue.

- ii. There would be fewer slanders if there were fewer eager listeners.
- iii. How many of us aid slander?
- iv. Those who are eager to HEAR are just as eager to TALK.

IX. BACKBITING

- a. To speak ill of those who are absent.
- b. Psa. 15:3; Rom. 1:30; 2 Cor. 12:20

X. ONE WHO TELLS EVERYBODY OFF IF EVERYTHING DOES NOT GO TO SUIT THEM IS A FOOL

- a. Prov. 29:11; Eccl. 5:3

XI. CORRUPT SPEECH

- a. Eph. 4: 29; 5:4
- b. Contaminating – obscene

XII. IDLE WORDS

- a. Matt. 12: 36 – 37
- b. Vain, thoughtless, useless words; a word that accomplishes no good; wicked; malicious and injurious words.

XIII. FLATTERING WORDS

- a. I Thess. 2: 5; Psa. 5:9; Jude 16
- b. Motives of self-interest

CONCLUSION

Preached at Underwood Hts.1972