

11 SINS OF THE TONGUE



Faith Apostolic Church of Christ

THE CORRUPT TONGUE

- ◉ **The Corrupt tongue:** foul speech, cursing, coarse humor, obscene language, derogatory comments, racial comments, belittling, insulting, etc.
- ◉ “But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.” (Colossians 3:8)
- ◉ The sinner’s mouth is “full of cursing and bitterness” (Romans 3:12-14). Only a new birth in Christ and surrendering to God’s word can make a difference in a man’s speech. When the heart is changed, then the speech will change.
- ◉ Satan encourages speech that will tear people down and destroy the work of Christ.
- ◉ The words of the believer *should* minister grace and help to draw others closer to Christ. To do this we must fill our **heart** with the love of Christ and his Holy Word so that only truth and purity can come out of the mouth.

THE FLATTERING TONGUE

- ◉ **The Flattering Tongue:** exaggerating the good qualities of others in order to find favor with them. The “flatterer” appeals to your ego, but their praise is far from sincere.
- ◉ “The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, *and the tongue that speaketh proud things:*” (Psalm 12:3).
- ◉ Satan used a form of flattery to tempt Eve: “You shall be as gods” (Genesis 3:3). He appealed to her “pride of life” and his trap made her “puffed up” for the fall.
- ◉ Of course, there is a place for honest praise in the body of Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13). However, some Saints are so carnal they cannot receive praise; it goes to their heads. Worse still, they cannot stand to see another person praised.

THE GOSSIPING TONGUE

- **The Gossiping Tongue** (*talebearer*): spreading confidential, unnecessary or hurtful information (whether it's true or false) about others.
- “The words of a talebearer *are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.*” (Proverbs 18:8).
- “He that goeth about *as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.*” (Proverbs 20:19). Stay away from the talebearer!
- He or she is a kindler of fires, “Where no wood is, *there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.*” (Proverbs 26:20)
- “A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.” (Proverbs 11:13).
- Gossiping is a form of flattering people by sharing secrets with them, but to be one of their “customers” is dangerous. People who feed on gossip only crave more, and the only remedy is for them to develop an appetite for God’s truth.

THE BACKBITING TONGUE

- ◉ **The Backbiting Tongue:** talking about others behind their backs, injuring their reputations through defamation. Negative or malicious talk may feel good for a moment, while you get something off your chest, but ultimately it causes damage and division among Saints.
- ◉ “The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue.” (Proverbs 25:23)
- ◉ **The Critical tongue:** critical tongues are destructive, mostly focusing on the negative, they build themselves up at the expense of tearing others down.
- ◉ Rather than focus on what is missing or negatives, we should speak about what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent and praiseworthy (Philippians 4:8).

THE PROUD TONGUE

- ◉ **The Proud Tongue:** speaking boastfully or in an arrogant way. A proud tongue loves to boast in himself, and doesn't realize he's doing it. (Luke 18:11-13)
- ◉ “The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, *and the tongue that speaketh proud things:*” (Psalm 12:3)
- ◉ “How long shall they utter and speak hard things? And all the workers of iniquity boast themselves?” (Proverbs 12:23)
- ◉ “The fear of the LORD *is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.*” (Proverbs 8:13)
- ◉ “Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things.” (James 3:5)

THE TONGUE THAT SOWETH DISCORD

- ◉ **The Tongue that sows discord:** or divisive words are seeds that bloom into feuds, quarrelling, strife, cliques, contentions, constitute schisms, and confusion. (Numbers 16 - Korah) (James 4:1-8)
- ◉ “These six *things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: . . .* A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.” (Proverbs 6:17,19)
- ◉ “Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord.” (Proverbs 16:14)
- ◉ “For God is not *the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.*” (1 Corinthians 14:13)
- ◉ The truly godly person sows seeds of unity and peace, not seeds of division (James 3:17-18). Discord and division in the church are terrible sins because they are contrary to the spiritual unity that Jesus prayed for in John 17:21.
- ◉ All it takes is one stubborn troublemaker to wreck the unity in a church family. “Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.” (Proverbs 22:10) - “a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?” (1 Corinthians 5:6)

THE TONGUE THAT TALKS TOO MUCH

- ◉ Talking too much: saying too much, which usually increases the opportunity to sin by the excess of words. Lack of discipline. (temperance = self-control)
- ◉ “Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter *any thing before God: . . . therefore let thy words be few*” (Ecclesiastes 5:2)
- ◉ “In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips *is wise.*” (Proverbs 10:19)
- ◉ “He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: *but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.*” (Proverbs 13:3)
- ◉ The idea behind these verses is that the fool talks too much and talks his way right into trouble. His mouth becomes a trap, and he himself is snared by it.

THE TONGUE THAT TALKS TOO SOON

- ⦿ **The untamed Tongue (talking too soon):** speaking before one should. This tongue makes assumptions without having all of the facts and their words are reckless and careless.
- ⦿ “Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter *any thing before God: . . . therefore let thy words be few.*” (Ecclesiastes 5:2).
- ⦿ “let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath” (James 1:19)
- ⦿ Too often we are slow to hear. We never really listen to the whole matter patiently, and then quickly blurt out what comes to mind; and this gets us into trouble. A godly person will study to answer, but a fool will open his mouth and pour out foolishness (Proverbs 15:28).

THE ARGUMENTATIVE TONGUE

- ◉ **The argumentative (angry) tongue:** speaking in an overly opinionated way, attacking others personally, and/or provoking unnecessary division. This tongue always leads to arguing and displays of temper.
- ◉ “A fool’s lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.” (Proverbs 18:6)
- ◉ “He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated.” (Proverbs 14:17)
- ◉ “An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.” (Proverbs 29:22)
- ◉ “Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.” (Proverbs 22:24-25)

THE ARGUMENTATIVE TONGUE

- ◉ God's anger isn't like human anger, which can be selfish and out of control. His anger is holy, against anything that defies His authority and disobeys His Word.
- ◉ In Mark 3:5, Jesus expressed his anger at sin and NOT the sinner. It is difficult for us to practice true holy anger because our emotions and thoughts are tainted by sin, and we do not have the same knowledge that God has in all matters. God sees everything clearly and knows everything completely, and we do not. We must examine our own hearts honestly to make certain that our anger at sin doesn't become sinful anger (Ephesians 4:26).
- ◉ Sometimes what we call "*righteous indignation*" is only our own unrighteous temper masquerading in religious garments. There is a very fine line between righteous anger and a "religious temper tantrum." "For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." (James 1:20)

THE JUDGMENTAL TONGUE

- ◉ **The judgmental tongue:** to form an opinion or draw a conclusion about someone based solely on beliefs, appearances, or reputation, i.e., incomplete information. “for *the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.*” (1 Samuel 16:7)
- ◉ “Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.” (Matthew 7:1-2)
- ◉ Only God can judge perfectly and righteously because he’s omniscient. We must first be willing to look honestly at our own lives and exercise the same judgment toward ourselves that we extend toward others. When we do this, we judge from a position of humility and not arrogance.
- ◉ Believers can and should judge situations and the actions of people by God’s word and the Holy Ghost so that we know sin from righteousness, truth from deceit, and believers from false teachers. However, it must be done in a loving, gentle, and humble way.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

- ◉ Self-discipline (temperance) - “Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.” (Proverbs 21:23)
- ◉ “Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.” (Psalm 141:3)
- ◉ “I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me.” (Psalm 39:1)
- ◉ A prepared heart - “The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.” (Proverbs 16:1)
- ◉ Surrender our bodies to the Lord (Romans 12:1), and this includes our tongue. We must also **yield** our hearts to the Lord, because what comes out of the mouth originates in the heart.