

# THE TONGUE

What I would like to talk to you about tonight is the tongue. The tongue is the thing that most of us have the worst time with in keeping it out of trouble. The tongue is so small, and yet it causes big trouble. A word here, a word there, and the next thing you know.... Trouble, big trouble comes our way!

There are four areas that I will be talking to you about in this bible study: Cursing and Lying, Murmuring, Railing. We will probably not finish this study in one lesson because I want to cover it thoroughly. But before we go any further let us pray: **(Pray!!!!)**

Our text tonight is in:

**Matthew 15:11** Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.

## 1. CURSING & LYING

**1 Corinthians 15:33** Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

How many times have we seen people who have no clue about what constitutes decent language; enter a conversation using foul language, and then wonder why everyone looks at them funny as they walk away. It's because there are certain types of language that are not to be used in polite company and this world doesn't teach that any more. We have become a "crude" society instead of a "polite" society.

More and more generations of people are being raised by unchurched people. I'm talking about people that were never raised in church, raising children. The more generations that pass between those generations which were affected by church and those which have not been affected by church teaching, the worse the gap becomes between decent conversation and crude conversation.

Some family lines will make the trip faster than others. But all will eventually end up in the wrong place given enough time. It may take one generation with one family line; it may take several in another. But as long as

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a family refuses to look to the word to get an understanding of what the bible declares is decent, their conversation will only degrade.

As the old saying goes, “What children learn is more caught than taught”. What behaviors, what language you model before your children is what they will likely model themselves as they grow older. If you curse, they will curse, if you smoke, they will smoke. If you have anger problems, they will have anger problems. But what are we supposed to do? Let’s look at Ephesians Chapter 4.

**Ephesians 4:22** That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

**Verse 22** is telling us that we need to change the way we talk when we come to Christ. We are not in the world any longer; we need to quit talking like it. No more cursing, no more lewd talk, no more talking about rude, crude and nasty things.

**Ephesians 4:23** And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

**Verse 23** is telling us that we need to change what we have been putting into our minds and put only clean, pure and holy thoughts into our minds. We renew our mind by the study of the word, by prayer and fasting, meditating on God word. **We read in:**

**Philippians 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

This is how we renew our minds. This is how we can have a peaceful spirit. This is how we can learn to have trusting relationships with people. This is how we can change a corrupt mind into a holy mind. This is how we renew our mind.

**Ephesians 4:24** And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

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**Verse 24** is telling us that we need to get away from our old nature. We need to depart from the “World” as we Christians tend to call it. If you are going to continue to use drugs, you will continue to talk like a druggie. If you continue to live the life of an alcoholic, you will continue to talk like an alcoholic. If you continue to live a life of perversion, you will continue to talk like a pervert.

If you want the things which you speak to be pure and holy, then you need to live a pure and holy life through Christ. While you’re working on your life, your tongue will follow. If you’re trying to follow the example that Christ has set for us, your tongue will become Christ like because conviction will set in, and you just won’t feel comfortable talking like you did while you were unsaved. You need to walk upright, you need to talk upright, and you need to be Christ like!

**Ephesians 4:25** Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

**Verse 25** tells us that we need to put away lying to our neighbors. We need to speak the truth before all men. We no longer should have a reason to lie to anyone. All our deeds should be good, above board, and legal. Therefore there is no longer any advantage to telling a lie. It won’t gain us anything; it will only condemn our heart and bring condemnation to the one we love, Jesus Christ! Remember, we now represent Christ, not just ourselves.

Let’s look to **Ephesians 4:29-32**

**Ephesians 4:29** Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

**Verse 29** is telling us that we need to put away cursing, and unholy language. Everything we say should be glorifying God. It should build up others in the Holy Ghost, not drag them down spiritually. It should be a comfort to others and not a terror. People should be able to tell that you’re a Christian by your language. Trust me; they will know whom you serve shortly after you open your mouth. If trash comes out, they will know that you’re a

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servant of Satan. If good things, things that glorify God come out, then you're probably a servant of God.

**Ephesians 4:30** And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

**Verse 30** is warning us that God is listening to everything we say, He sees everything we do. He is "Omnipresent" That means that He is everywhere at the same time. When we sin in the things we do and say, God knows it whether anybody else does or not.

When we sin, we grieve the Holy Ghost that lives within us. We are in effect, crucifying Christ all over again. We need to seek God with all our heart in order to keep from sinning. We need to repent when we do sin and seek the face of God for forgiveness and for strength to live for Him without sin in our lives.

Some people say that we all sin every day. I disagree with that position and do not believe it is doctrinally correct. The longer we live for Christ, the more Christ like we should become. The longer we should be able to go without sinning.

To be a Christian is to be Christ like. If we are being conformed to His image, we are ceasing to sin more and more each day. **Remember that Romans 12:2** tells us to:

**Romans 12:2** .... be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Therefore it is possible to live for Christ and to live without sin.

**Ephesians 4:31** Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

**Verse 31** tells us that we need to get rid of anything that does not bring glory to God. How can you speak kindly when your heart is full of hatred? How can you live for God when you have an angry spirit? How can you properly represent Christ when you have a heart that is full of rage and

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revenge? You can't, that's why we're told to get rid of it, get it out of our hearts. We need to put on the mind of Christ, not the mind of Satan!

**Ephesians 4:32** And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

**Verse 32** tells us what things we should do to help change our heart. We need to be kind to each other. How many of you prefer to be treated kindly rather than badly? We need to be tenderhearted toward each other. We need to remember that we are all sinners saved by grace. We need to remember that not everyone is at the same level as we are spiritually. Some are just babies in Christ, some are teenagers, and some are mature adults.

Others are just plain lost, and therefore don't know any better. We need to love them into the kingdom! How can we love others into the kingdom of Christ if we aren't lovable ourselves? How can others expect Christ to forgive them of their sins if we, the children of Christ can't forgive each other? It's just not going to happen!

There used to be a saying many years ago that said something like this. "How you gonna represent your bad self?" I'm asking you tonight, how are you going to represent your savior? How are you going to represent Jesus Christ to the world?

It's also been said, that you are the best bible someone else will ever read. They'll learn everything they know about Christ through watching your life. Is your life a mystery? Is your life a horror story? Or is your life a love story? Let the world see the love of Jesus through your actions, your personality, and as this lesson teaches, through your words!

Now let's look at **Ephesians 5:3-4**

**Ephesians 5:3** But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; **4** Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

These verses are talking about what I said earlier, that your tongue reflects your life. We need to put away the lifestyles of the world; the sexual

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sins, petty jealousies, or anything else in our lifestyle that would reflect badly on our savior. No filthy talking, no dirty jokes, just giving thanks to the Lord for all the things He's done for us!

Many of us can spend untold hours on the phone or just talking to someone else, and yet we can't spend ten minutes in prayer to our Lord and Savior. I think that if we were to spend as much time praying and thanking God for all that He's done for us, as we spend complaining about the things that haven't gone our way lately, we wouldn't have nearly so many things go wrong for us.

We spend so much time complaining about our lives that nobody in their right mind would want to be a Christian after hearing about everything that's gone wrong in our lives. It's far too dangerous to be a Christian the way some folks talk. Let's make our words count for Christ. Let's show the world just how thankful we are to be saved, how thankful that we have a savior that loves us so much that He wants to spend eternity with us!

Now let's look at what **Colossians 3:8-10** has to say to us tonight:

**Colossians 3:8** But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

**Verse 8** tells us what he have seen repeatedly, that we need to put away anything in our lives that doesn't bring glory to Jesus Christ. We need to put away the anger, the wrath, the ill intent toward others. We have no business speaking those things which are blasphemous to God. Those curse words that add God's name to them. We need to stop cursing altogether. We need to quit telling things that we have to make sure others don't hear because we are unsure if their content would be acceptable in mixed company or around children.

**Colossians 3:9** Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

**Verse 9** tells us again, just as we have learned in **Ephesians 4:25** that we are not to lie any more to anyone. The second half of **James 5:12** puts it this way:

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**James 5:12** .....but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.

As born again believers, we have no need to lie. If we sin, we are to confess our sins, not lie to cover them. Liars have their place in the lake of fire as proclaimed in **Revelation 21:8**

**Revelation 21:8** But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Liars will not enter into the Kingdom of heaven; they will enter the kingdom of hell. I don't know about you, but I really don't want to enter into that kingdom! I want to go to heaven! I want to spend eternity with Jesus and not with the devil. The devil just isn't my kind of people!

**Colossians 3:10** And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

**Verse 10** reminds us that we are not the same person we used to be. We are a new creation in Christ Jesus. Not only are we not the same as we used to be, but Christ has recreated us into His image! Not saying physically, but spiritually we are new creatures in Christ Jesus. We have taken his nature upon us and thrown the old one in the trash where it belongs. Don't go digging through the trash for your old nature. Just rejoice in your new nature, and live in such a manner that it brings glory to your Lord and saviour!

Now let's look at what **James 3:2-10** has to say on the subject:

**James 3:2** For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same *is* a perfect man, *and* able also to bridle the whole body. **3** Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. **4** Behold also the ships, which though *they be* so great, and *are* driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. **5** Even so the tongue is a little member,

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and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! **6** And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. **7** For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: **8** But the tongue can no man tame; *it is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. **9** Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. **10** Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

This passage tells us what trouble the tongue can cause. It tells us how hard it is to control. God knows our struggles with our tongue, but He also makes it clear that while it is hard to control, we can control it if we want to. It's hard work, but it's a worthy task! If we learn to control our tongue by applying God's word to our heart through reading His word, through fasting, and through continual prayer, we are considered by God to be perfect.

Don't curse and lie one minute and then speak of Godly things in the next! Your mouth and the words that come from it should always glorify the Lord. As one man put it: "God gave us one mouth and two ears, therefore we should listen twice as much as we speak..." We need to start taking more time to think before we answer a question, or before we express our opinion on a subject. Let's look what Solomon said in Proverbs.

**Proverbs 17:28** Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.

Too many times we want to express our opinion on a subject when we should just keep our mouths closed. I had a boss who once told me that "You can be right at the wrong time and still be wrong". You may be right in what you said, but if you say it in a way, or place that causes embarrassment for someone, especially if they are in a position of authority over you, you are in the wrong. Someone else will say the same thing you did at a later date and get the credit for your idea. Be careful what you say, and when you say it. Take time to think things through before you speak! This is a lesson that I still need to remind myself of from time to time

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**1 Peter 1:15** But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

This verse says it all, very simply, and very plainly. When you speak words, would the Lord say those words? Or would He be ashamed to say such things? As the old saying goes, WWJD or What Would Jesus Do? This verse is further evidence that the tongue can be controlled if Christ has full control in our lives. If we truly have a heart after God, we will have a mouth that speaks after the heart of God.

**1 Peter 3:10** For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

The Greek word for Guile is “*dol'-os*”

From *dellō* (an obsolete primary word meaning to *decoy*; a *trick (bait)*), that is, (figuratively) *wile*: - craft, deceit, guile, subtilty.

In other words, using guile means you're telling lies, leading people on, trying to scam them, you're using them. We need to keep our thoughts and our words pure. We need to make sure that the things we say about other people are building them up, not tearing them down. God will not honor liars or those who use deceit or guile. We need to do all things to the glory of God, and not for our own glory!

**1 Peter 3:16** Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

How many of you have had people accuse you of things that you haven't done? I have! But because of the clean life I have lived before others, and the poor life they lived before others, no one else in the church believed that other person. That other person kept on trying to say bad things about people until they taken out of their position of authority in that church. They were telling too many fibs, they were making too many unfounded accusations about others, thinking it would strengthen their own position in the church. Instead,

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it cost them their position... Now they wander from church to church going through the same trouble because they have never learned to just keep their mouth shut...

**Philippians 1:27** Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

We are known by the words that we speak, and your words may travel farther than you could ever imagine... What will people think when they hear of your words? What will Jesus think when He hears “all” your words? Because He does hear all your words, whether spoken in public or in private.

## Other scriptures:

**Psalms 19:14** Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

**Psalms 50:23** Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth *his* conversation *aright* will I shew the salvation of God.

**Proverbs 6:16** These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him:

**Proverbs 6:17** A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

**Proverbs 6:18** An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

**Proverbs 6:19** A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

**1 Timothy 1:9** Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,

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**1 Timothy 1:10** For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

**Revelation 21:8** But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

## 2. MURMURING

### EXODUS CHAPTER 16

**Exodus 16:2-3** And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: **3** And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

The people murmured until the Lord gave them Manna to eat. Then they failed to follow His instructions concerning it. Like most people, they want to blame somebody else for their problems instead of taking responsibility for their own actions. They don't follow the rules and somehow it's somebody else's fault when things go wrong.

There are times when we just have to trust the Lord and those He's put in control of our lives. We need to learn to trust the leadership of the church. But the church also has the responsibility to be trustworthy! As the Pastor of this church, I have to study the word thoroughly and bring it to you with every scripture taken in context of the passage it was written in. As a congregation, you have a responsibility to study those things which I have written to make sure I did it right!

This is what the Apostle Paul wrote about the church at Berea:

**Acts 17:11** These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

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I believe that we are more so required to study the scriptures than they were, because we have more of the scriptures than they did. We have the whole book; they may have had only a part of the whole bible. Not much of the New Testament had been written yet. We have the whole bible and more tools to check what the preacher has taught, to study it with, than they ever dreamed of! We need to quit murmuring and start studying.

If I, as the Pastor of this church, am not teaching you the whole word of God, and therefore teaching false doctrine, you need to find another church rather than murmur. If you will study the scriptures that I will give you on any subject, with a heart toward God, and with prayer, you will find that I am correct about the themes which I teach from these scriptures. Not because I'm infallible, but because the Spirit of God dwells in me, just as He dwells in you if you've been filled with the Holy Ghost.

Many churches today will only teach you a partial gospel. They will only teach you a partial doctrine of salvation. They will only teach their denomination's doctrine instead of searching out the whole word of God to find out what the whole of the bible says on any given subject. Then they pooh, pooh over the many scriptures that show their position to untenable. Discounting the importance of those scriptures which contradict their denominational positions.

## **EXODUS CHAPTER 17:1-7**

This particular story is about the people in the wilderness again, lacking in their trust in the Lord and the leadership God has placed over them. They complained that Moses had led them into the wilderness to cause them to die of thirst. Therefore, at the rock in the wilderness, Moses according to God's plan; smote the rock and it brought forth the water they needed in order to survive.

We need to keep in mind what it says in **Matthew 6:25-34**:

**Matthew 6:25-34** Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? **26:** Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into

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barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? **27:** Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? **28:** And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: **29:** And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. **30:** herefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith? **31:** Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? **32:** (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. **33:** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. **34:** Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.

We need to learn to trust God for all our needs instead of blaming the preacher. God will bring what you need, when you need it, and all your murmuring will do; is cause God to delay bringing what you need.

## **NUMBERS CHAPTER 14:1-3**

**Numbers 14:1:** And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. **2:** And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! **3:** And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

The people complained about the inhabitants of the promised land, because there were giants in the land, and they refused to enter in. They murmured about their leadership and were determined to return to the land of Egypt. When they left Egypt, God said to never return to the land of Egypt. So in the verses to follow, He judges them. He was going to kill them all and raise up a new nation from the loins of Moses. But Moses interceded for them, just as a good Pastor intercedes for your soul.

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God still judged their sins, but he didn't destroy all of them, he only judged those who were adults. He didn't kill them right away, but commanded them to wander in the wilderness for forty years. They wandered until all those who wanted to go back to Egypt had died. They wandered until all the spies who gave a bad report had died. Only Moses, Joshua, and Caleb lived to see the promised land of those over the age of twenty on the day that God set His judgment upon the children of Israel.

God had a blessing in store for the children of Israel, but they chose a curse instead. Murmuring brings curses upon your head, and upon the heads of your family. Don't murmur about the man of God, pray for him and his family. Whether good or bad, you have the man of God that you probably deserve. He will be good or bad as the Pastor depending in large part upon the prayers the saints lift up to God on his behalf. Don't ever stop praying for those in leadership in the church!

## NUMBERS CHAPTER 16

Korah, Dathan, and Abiram

**Numbers 16:1-38:** Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took *men*: **2:** And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown: **3:** And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, *Ye take* too much upon you, seeing all the congregation *are* holy, every one of them, and the LORD *is* among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD? **4:** And when Moses heard *it*, he fell upon his face: **5:** And he spake unto Korah and unto all his company, saying, Even tomorrow the LORD will show who *are* his, and *who is* holy; and will cause *him* to come near unto him: even *him* whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him. **6:** This do; Take you censers, Korah, and all his company; **7:** And put fire therein, and put incense in them before the LORD tomorrow: and it shall be *that* the man whom the LORD doth choose, he *shall be* holy: *ye take* too much upon you, ye sons of Levi. **8:** And Moses said unto Korah, Hear, I pray you, ye sons of Levi: **9:** *Seemeth it but* a small thing unto you, that the God of Israel hath separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself to do the service of the tabernacle of the LORD, and to stand

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before the congregation to minister unto them? **10:** And he hath brought thee near *to him*, and all thy brethren the sons of Levi with thee: and seek ye the priesthood also? **11:** For which cause *both* thou and all thy company *are* gathered together against the LORD: and what *is* Aaron, that ye murmur against him? **12:** And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab: which said, We will not come up: **13:** *Is it* a small thing that thou hast brought us up out of a land that floweth with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, except thou make thyself altogether a prince over us? **14:** Moreover thou hast not brought us into a land that floweth with milk and honey, or given us inheritance of fields and vineyards: wilt thou put out the eyes of these men? we will not come up. **15:** And Moses was very wroth, and said unto the LORD, Respect not thou their offering: I have not taken one ass from them, neither have I hurt one of them. **16:** And Moses said unto Korah, Be thou and all thy company before the LORD, thou, and they, and Aaron, tomorrow: **17:** And take every man his censer, and put incense in them, and bring ye before the LORD every man his censer, two hundred and fifty censers; thou also, and Aaron, each *of you* his censer. **18:** And they took every man his censer, and put fire in them, and laid incense thereon, and stood in the door of the tabernacle of the congregation with Moses and Aaron. **19:** And Korah gathered all the congregation against them unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the congregation. **20:** And the LORD spoke unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, **21:** Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment. **22:** And they fell upon their faces, and said, O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and wilt thou be wroth with all the congregation? **23:** And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying, **24:** Speak unto the congregation, saying, Get you up from about the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. **25:** And Moses rose up and went unto Dathan and Abiram; and the elders of Israel followed him. **26:** And he spoke unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins. **27:** So they got up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children. **28:** And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for *I have not done them* of mine own mind. **29:** If these men die the common

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death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; *then* the LORD hath not sent me. **30:** But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that *appertain* unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD. **31:** And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground cleaved asunder that *was* under them: **32:** And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that *appertained* unto Korah, and all *their* goods. **33:** They, and all that *appertained* to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation. **34:** And all Israel that *were* round about them fled at the cry of them: for they said, Lest the earth swallow us up *also*. **35:** And there came out a fire from the LORD, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense. **36:** And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying, **37:** Speak unto Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest, that he take up the censers out of the burning, and scatter thou the fire yonder; for they are hallowed. **38:** The censers of these sinners against their own souls, let them make them broad plates *for* a covering of the altar: for they offered them before the LORD, therefore they are hallowed: and they shall be a sign unto the children of Israel.

As we can see, God sets in order those whom He trusts in positions of leadership. Being a Pastor, or a leader in a church is not a position to be taken lightly. If you can live for God without being a Pastor, the by all means do it! Those who are in leadership positions are held to a higher standard. They will receive a greater punishment for failure; I can't guarantee they will receive a greater reward for doing well.

**James 3:1** My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

The word tells us in Hebrews Chapter 5

**Hebrews 5:1-4** For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things *pertaining* to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: **2:** Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity. **3:** And by

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reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins.  
**4:** And no man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as *was* Aaron.

How was Aaron called of God? He was called to the service of God by the Prophet of God, Moses. There are those today that have the gift of Prophecy. Those who are called of God to the ministry today; need to be called not only in their communion with God, but by a Holy Ghost filled prophet of God.

Those who would usurp the authority of their Pastor; will most certainly find that God is not pleased with them! If you feel the Pastor is in error, first go to him alone and see if he'll discuss it with you. A true man of God will try to find a time acceptable to "both" of you to discuss your viewpoint. You need to have enough of the Holy Ghost in you to listen to him explain his viewpoint in full before making a judgment on his position. It's rarely possible for a Pastor to teach all doctrine in its fullness during the limited time of a normal bible study.

If after listening to him, you still think he's wrong, show him your point of view. Please do not take one scripture and try to use it to prove the thirty scriptures the pastor has are wrong. If after your discussion with Pastor you still think he's wrong, you have a decision to make. If the error is not a matter of salvation doctrine, just agree to disagree and keep supporting your pastor and your church. If the error is one of salvation doctrine, you need to find another church. God will not bless you if you stay and undermine the Pastor's authority and teaching in the church.

Even if you are a part of the family of the Pastor, you still have to follow God's word and the man of God He has placed in your life. Miriam, the sister of Moses, was stricken with leprosy for murmuring against him..

*Now let's look at the New Testament:*

**1 Corinthians 10:10** Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

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The principle of not murmuring is carried forth into the New Testament. As this scripture mentions, destruction awaits those who would murmur. Don't nail your Pastor to a cross; build a solid foundation under his feet. Don't flay your Pastor with a whip, pray for your Pastor that he doesn't trip. How would you feel if your Pastor always talked bad about you, ran you down, and made you feel worthless? If he's doing that during his sermons either you're one messed up character that needs to get right with God, or God will take him out of the picture for you. Let's see what Romans Chapter 12 tells us to do:

**Romans 12:19-21:** Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. **20:** Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. **21:** Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

In other words, never attack a Pastor, even a bad one. You need to always be in intercessory prayer for your pastor, and pastor's need to always be in intercessory prayer for the congregation.

**Philippians 2:14** Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

**Philippians Chapter 2** speaks of working together with others, to put others ahead of ourselves, to humble ourselves. How can the church of the living God grow if the people are fighting amongst themselves? We need to work together if the church is to grow.

Visitors will quickly see if we're a church that's tearing itself apart, or if it is a church where people are willing to forego their ideas in order for the church to move forward. That doesn't mean that your ideas are thrown to the wind, it means that you will not always get your way on every issue. My vision is that we capture people's ideas on paper and then pray about them. Now may not be the time to implement those ideas, but when the time is right, those ideas are still there to be harvested for the benefit of the kingdom.

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*Now on to James:*

**James 1:26** If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion *is* vain.

Regardless of how sanctified, how holy, how religious a person may seem to be, if they are always talking about someone, if they are always talking bad about the pastor, that person needs to repent and get saved. They may have been saved, but if they are practicing gossip, or are running down the leadership of the church, or the congregation, they have lost the Holy Ghost because it is an abomination to God! Let's look at Proverbs Chapter 6:

**Proverbs 6:16:** These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him: **17:** A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, **18:** A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, **19:** A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Anyone who is sowing discord among the brethren is guilty of an abomination before God. Their name is removed from the lamb's book of life. And as we shall see in the book of Revelation, nothing abominable shall enter into the kingdom of God.

**Revelation 21:27** And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

## 3. RAILING/REVILING

The Greek word for railing is: *loidoria (loy-dor-ee'-ah)* which means *slander* or *vituperation*: - railing, reproach [-fully].

Vituperation means: an outburst of violently abusive or harshly critical language.

In other words, it means to say untrue things about a person, lying about them, or to slam somebody verbally. It means being disrespectful, abusive, and most certainly, not Christ like.

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What are we as Christians supposed to do with people like that? Well it depends on whether or not that person is calling themselves a brother or sister in Christ or not. Let's see what **1 Corinthians 5:11** says about it:

**1 Corinthians 5:11** But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

If anyone who is called a brother or sister in Christ talks like the description of a "railer", then we are not to even to sit down and eat with them. That's how bad God hates those who talk about others, that's how bad He hates gossipers! That's how bad God hates those that speak evil of those He's put in authority in the church.

If you don't like those who are in charge of the church you attend, pray until God gives you an answer as to whether you need to change your attitude, or change your church. God will not bless you for speaking evil about your church, even if it "*is*" wrong.... You're much better off changing churches first. But again, check to make sure *it's the church* that has the issue that needs to be dealt with *and not you*.... If you have the issues, you need to change, not change churches!

**Jude 8** Likewise also these *filthy* dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. **9** Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. **10** But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. **14** And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, **15** To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard *speeches* which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. **16** These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling *words*, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage. **17** But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

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Even someone as powerful in heaven as Michael the archangel wouldn't speak evil about the devil himself, yet there are those who would speak evil about anyone and everyone in every church in town, and that's not right!!!! These same people are referred to as murmurers, complainers, speaking great swelling words. In other words, they think they are better than everybody else. They think that they are the only ones who know what's right. They think that they should be in charge.

They're full of pride and have no humility. I would bet they're too proud to know they have a pride issue. They would insist they are humble and have no pride issues. Yet all the while they would insist they have the right to speak evil about people because they were in the right, and not the ones who they were talking about. They were the ones done wrong so that gives them the right to speak badly about other people.

People like this need to study their bible more. They need to pray longer. They need to ask forgiveness from God for their words, for their deeds, and for their attitude. You can't justify talking badly about other people in any way, shape, form or fashion. Give it all to God and let him take care of matters. It says in **Romans 12:19**:

**Romans 12:19** Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

We need to look at ourselves before we talk about others; I can guarantee you that each and every one of us needs a little more work on us before we're perfect in God's sight. Since God is the only one who is perfect, He is the only one qualified to judge another person. Let's take a look at what **1 Corinthians 11:31** says:

**1 Corinthians 11:31** For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

We need to judge ourselves before God finds it necessary to judge us. I daresay, it will go much easier for us if we would do so! Now let's look at a kissing cousin to railing, it's called reviling.

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## A. REVILERS

**REVILER:** To abuse with opprobrious language, to vilify, to defame.

**OPPROBRIOUS:** Reproachful and contemptuous; shameful.

When you talk badly about people, even people who may deserve it, you're doing evil in the sight of God. As I mention often in this church, our goal is to love people into the kingdom, not shove people into the kingdom. If we are talking about others, again, even if they deserve it, are we showing love that a sinner would be able to recognize as such? I don't think so.

We need to remember, that not only are the people in the church hearing us talk about others, the sinners around us are hearing us talk about people. Who, in their right mind, wants to go to a church where people are always talking bad about other people? Who wants to go to a church full of backstabbing people, those who would form cliques, and those who are prideful instead of humble?

One church I attended had several children with down-syndrome in it. This was probably the best church I have ever been a part of, yet when these kids would go down to the altar no one would go down to pray with them. I don't know why, I could speculate on the many reasons why they wouldn't, but the bottom line is, I went down to the altar to pray with those kids. I wanted those kids to feel like somebody cared enough about them to pray with them! Those kids had a love for Jesus that you could not deny. When they prayed to the Lord, they prayed with their whole heart. That's loving someone into the kingdom of God!

Let's look at **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**

**1 Corinthians 6:9** Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

**1 Corinthians 6:10** Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Bottom line, if you are reviling someone, you are endangering your soul! Please, in the name of Jesus, stop, repent, and try to love that person into the kingdom.