

WATCH YOUR MOUTH

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*What you say can preserve life or destroy it;
so you must accept the consequences of your words.*

Proverbs 18:21 (GNT)

Sticks and stones may break my **bones**, but words will never **hurt me**.

Sticks and stones may break our **bones**, but words can break our **hearts**.

We Need to Watch Our Mouths Because...

1. Our tongue is **POWERFUL**.

Not many of you should become **teachers**, my fellow believers, because you know that we who **teach** will be judged **more strictly**. **James 3:1 (NIV)**
We all **stumble** in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is **perfect**, able to keep their **whole body in check**. **James 3:2 (NIV)**

When we put **bits** into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴ Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very **small rudder** wherever the pilot wants to go. **James 3:3-4 (NIV)**

2. Our tongue is **DANGEROUS**.

Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a **small spark**. ⁶ The **tongue also is a fire**, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. **James 3:5-6 (NIV)**

All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of **deadly poison**. **James 3:7-8 (NIV)**

Four Deadly Poisons of the Tongue:

- **GOSSIP**
-

Gossip is spread by wicked people; they stir up trouble and **break up friendships**.

Proverbs 16:28 (GNT)

- **SLANDER**

- **ANGER**

*And don't sin by letting **anger control you**. Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a **foothold to the devil**.*

Ephesians 4:26-27 (NLT)

- **LIES**

*So **stop telling lies**. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body.* **Ephesians 4:25 (NLT)**

3. Our tongue is **REVEALING.**

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ¹¹ Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water. **James 3:9-12 (NIV)**

Words That Can Transform Lives:

- "Please"
- "Thank You"
- "I'm Sorry"
- "I Love You"
- "I'm Praying For You"