

The Little Bully - James 3:1-18
Walk This Way Series - A Study of the Book of James

Introduction - The problem with too much TALKING is its root cause lies in a proud attitude which thrives in pretentious self-expression.

I. Too many FOREMEN

- v. 1 Examine motives for the desire to be heard; greater responsibility - Luke 12:48
- v. 2 We all stumble in many areas but the tongue resists control more than any other area of behavior
- Maturity is pictured as self-control
- vv. 3-5 Size versus importance/ bits, rudders and matches - illustrates the tongue's influence
- v. 6 The power to chart/ change history with its ability to spread

II. Discernment over JUDGING

- v. 7-8 The death blows a few regretful words can deliver
- v. 9-10 Inconsistency: Bless God while cursing His creation
- We are rational, self-conscious, self-determined moral creatures made for fellowship with God
- vv. 11-12 A mouth that praises God while condemning men lacks credibility

III. Wisdom from ABOVE

- v. 13 Talk less, show more
- v. 14 Overlooking our own failure while judging others

- vv. 15-16 This hypocrisy is worldly and demonic causing confusion/disunity
- v. 17 Heaven's truth is pure, brings peace, easily approached and full of mercy and actions
- v. 18 Peace is harvested within relationships when it is sown in practice

Conclusion - May Gilead practice PEACE, lived out in actions, renouncing the turmoil and bickering that characterizes too many churches.