

# Real World Real God

## Taming the Tongue

Pastor Mark Lehmann

“The Words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.” [Proverbs 12:18 NIV](#)

### Insights from James

“A bit in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse. A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds. A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it! It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell. This is scary: You can tame a tiger, but you can’t tame a tongue—it’s never been done. The tongue runs wild, a wanton killer. With our tongues we bless God our Father; with the same tongues we curse the very men and women he made in his image. Curses and blessings out of the same mouth! My friends, this can’t go on. A spring doesn’t gush fresh water one day and brackish the next, does it? Apple trees don’t bear strawberries, do they? Raspberry bushes don’t bear apples, do they? You’re not going to dip into a polluted mud hole and get a cup of clear, cool water, are you?” [James 3:3-12 MSG](#)

### The Language Locator

*“Your language is your locator; what you say lets people know where you are.”*  
- Anonymous

“A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.” [Luke 6:45 NIV](#)

“Mean-spirited ambition isn’t wisdom. Boasting that you are wise isn’t wisdom. Twisting the truth to make yourselves sound wise isn’t wisdom. It’s the furthest thing from wisdom—it’s animal cunning, devilish conniving. Whenever you’re trying to look better than others or get the better of others, things fall apart and everyone ends up at the others’ throats. Real wisdom, God’s wisdom, begins with a holy life and is

characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results *only* if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor.”

**James 3:14-18 MSG**

“It’s not what goes into your mouth that defiles you; you are defiled by the words that come out of your mouth.” **Matthew 15:11 NLT**

## **Language Barriers**

“Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips.”

**Psalms 141:3 NIV**

## **Four Areas of Controlling the Tongue of a Believer**

1. Submit and Resist. “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” James 4:7 NIV

2. Don’t Slander

“Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another.” **James 4:11 NIV**

“Do not speak evil against one another.” **James 4:11 ESV**

3. Don’t Complain

“Friends, don’t complain about each other. A far greater complaint could be lodged against you, you know. The Judge is standing just around the corner.”

**James 5:9 MSG**

4. Don’t Swear and Pad Your Words, Let Your Yes be Yes

“And since you know that He cares, let your language show it. Don’t add words like “I swear to God” to your own words. Don’t show your impatience by concocting oaths to hurry up God. Just say yes or no. Just say what is true. That way, your language can’t be used against you.” **James 5:12 MSG**

## **Language Tragedies**

- Social Media Hit and Runs

- Idle Words (Matthew 12:36)

“Tweet as you want to be Tweeted.”

### Language Test

1. Is it True?
2. Where does it come from?
3. Does it Build up?
4. Have I Thought about it Twice?
5. Is this my Story to Tell?

### Language of Love

“Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.”

**James 1:26 NLT**

### James says:

1. I can't tame my tongue I need help. (3:1-12)
2. The Problem is my Heart's Motive (3:13-18)
3. When we Humble ourselves God Brings Grace and supernatural Strength (James 4:7)

### Check Your Motives

1. No Slandering (4:11)
2. No Complaining (5:9)
3. No Padding my Words Let our Yes be Yes (5:12)

“May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight oh Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.” **Psalms 19:14 NIV**