A Dangerous Member

(January 7, 2018, By Rev. Luís Moreno)

Today we are going to study a topic that is essential for those of us who want to please God and those of us who are seeking growth in the góspel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Like the title says, there is a member in our body which is capable of contaminating everything that surrounds it. The Bible defines it as very dangerous when it is used in the wrong way in our daily lives.

Yes, my brothers and sisters, I am referring to the tongue, which is a small member, but which is capable of causing a lot of damage to others.

Scripture 1: James 3:1-12

My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. **2**For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he *is* a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. **3**Indeed,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+3&version=NKJV" \l "fen-NKJV-30323a" \o "See footnote a)] we put bits in horses’ mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. **4**Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. **5**Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.

See how great a forest a little fire kindles! **6**And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. **7**For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. **8**But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. **9**With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. **10**Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. **11**Does a spring send forth fresh *water* and bitter from the same opening? **12**Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+3&version=NKJV" \l "fen-NKJV-30332b" \o "See footnote b)]

It is important as the church of God, that we learn to speak in the proper way, because each one of us will give account to God for every word that is idle or without benefit for the Kingdom of God, since murmuring is sin before God and we all know that.

Scripture 2: Matthew 12:34-37

**34**Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.**35**A good man out of the good treasure of his heart[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+12&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-23525g)] brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. **36**But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. **37**For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Scripture 3: Proverbs 15:1-4

A soft answer turns away wrath,  
But a harsh word stirs up anger.  
**2**The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly,  
But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.

**3**The eyes of the Lord *are* in every place,  
Keeping watch on the evil and the good.

**4**A wholesome tongue *is* a tree of life,  
But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

Scripture 4: Proverbs 12:13,17-19

The wicked is ensnared by the transgression of *his* lips,  
But the righteous will come through trouble.  
**14**A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of *his* mouth,  
And the recompense of a man’s hands will be rendered to him.

**15**The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes,  
But he who heeds counsel *is* wise.  
**16**A fool’s wrath is known at once,  
But a prudent *man* covers shame.  
**17**He *who* speaks truth declares righteousness,  
But a false witness, deceit.  
**18**There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword,  
But the tongue of the wise *promotes* health.  
**19**The truthful lip shall be established forever,  
But a lying tongue *is* but for a moment.

Scripture 5: Proverbs 26:24-28.

He who hates, disguises *it* with his lips,  
And lays up deceit within himself;  
**25**When he speaks kindly, do not believe him,  
For *there are* seven abominations in his heart;  
**26***Though his* hatred is covered by deceit,  
His wickedness will be revealed before the assembly.

**27**Whoever digs a pit will fall into it,  
And he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him.

**28**A lying tongue hates *those who are* crushed by it,  
And a flattering mouth works ruin.

Scripture 6: Proverbs 18:4-8

The words of a man’s mouth *are* deep waters;  
The wellspring of wisdom *is* a flowing brook.

**5***It is* not good to show partiality to the wicked,  
*Or* to overthrow the righteous in judgment.

**6**A fool’s lips enter into contention,  
And his mouth calls for blows.  
**7**A fool’s mouth *is* his destruction,  
And his lips *are* the snare of his soul.  
**8**The words of a talebearer *are* like tasty trifles,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+18&version=NKJV" \l "fen-NKJV-16910a" \o "See footnote a)]  
And they go down into the inmost body.

When we are in a situation like this, which we constantly see in different places, like at churches, the work place, the streets and homes, TV (Jerry Spring, People’s Court, etc. ), it necessary to question ourselves and lay aside this behavior that is not well seen before the eyes of the Lord. This behavior only generates division, pain, deceit, and distrust among people. Therefore, we should obey the Word of God when it teaches us to bridle the tongue.

Scripture 7: 1 Peter 3:8-12.

**8**Finally, all *of you be* of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, *be* tenderhearted, *be* courteous;[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+3&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30433a)] **9**not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. **10**For

“He who would love life  
And see good days,  
Let him refrain his tongue from evil,  
And his lips from speaking deceit.  
**11**Let him turn away from evil and do good;  
Let him seek peace and pursue it.  
**12**For the eyes of the Lord *are* on the righteous,  
And His ears *are open* to their prayers;  
But the face of the Lord *is* against those who do evil.”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+3&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30437b)]

Scripture 8: Psalm 34:12-16.

Who *is* the man *who* desires life,  
And loves *many* days, that he may see good?  
**13**Keep your tongue from evil,  
And your lips from speaking deceit.  
**14**Depart from evil and do good;  
Seek peace and pursue it.

**15**The eyes of the Lord *are* on the righteous,  
And His ears *are open* to their cry.  
**16**The face of the Lord *is* against those who do evil,  
To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

Scripture 9: PROV.6:16-19.

These six *things* the Lord hates,  
Yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him:  
**17**A proud look,  
A lying tongue,  
Hands that shed innocent blood,  
**18**A heart that devises wicked plans,  
Feet that are swift in running to evil,  
**19**A false witness *who* speaks lies,  
And one who sows discord among brethren.

Scripture 10: PROV.18:19-21.

A brother offended *is harder to win* than a strong city,  
And contentions *are* like the bars of a castle.

**20**A man’s stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth;  
*From* the produce of his lips he shall be filled.

**21**Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue,  
And those who love it will eat its fruit.

In Scripture 1 (James 3), we find several points that are important for the church.

VERSE 1-2=He who teaches will give a greater account to God VERSE V. 3-6= 1.The tongue does not have a bridle and will run over anybody.

2.Our words are like a ship without a rudder that will go off from the way of God in any direction.

3.Our words are like a small flame, which can ignite a great fire and destroy everything before it.

4.Our tongue is between the mind and the heart. Words mark people’s lives.

Verse 7-12= We can dominate every type of animal, but with the mouth we bless Almighty God and curse our neighbor, who is made in the image and likeness of God. However, this should not be so.

To conclude, brothers and sisters, God teaches us that we should show changes with respect to the spirit of murmuring, anger, gossip, and false witness. These sins divide homes, churches, and families. Such división should not be accepted by any follower of Christ and His góspel because it is sin. Christ teaches us to love our neighbor, that we produce good fruit, and that we really be a new creature in His Kingdom.

Scripture 11: 2 Corinthians 5:17.

**17**Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Scripture 12: 1 John 4:7-8

**7**Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. **8**He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Scripture 13: Matthew 22:37-39.

**37**Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+22&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-23910d)] **38**This is *the* first and great commandment.**39**And *the* second *is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+22&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-23912e)] **40**On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Scripture 14: James 3:17-18.

**17**But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. **18**Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.