

A close-up photograph of a person's mouth, with their lips and part of their chin covered in bright blue adhesive tape. The tape is applied in several overlapping strips, completely sealing the mouth. The background is a plain, light color.

be slow to  
**SPEAK**  
**Controlling Our Tongue**  
Stephanus Elia

# James 3: 1-12

1NOT MANY of you should become teachers, my brethren, for you know that we [teachers] will be judged by a higher standard and with greater severity. 2For we all often **stumble** and **fall** and **offend** in many things. And if anyone does not offend in speech [never says the wrong things], he is a fully developed **character** and a **perfect** man, able to **control** his whole body and to curb his **entire nature**. 3If we set bits in the horses' mouths to make them obey us, we can turn their whole bodies about. 4Likewise, look at the ships: though they are so great and are driven by rough winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the impulse of the helmsman determines.

## James 3: 1-12

5Even so the tongue is a little member, and it can boast of great things. See how much wood or how great a forest a **tiny spark** can **set ablaze!** 6And the tongue is a fire. [The tongue is a] world of wickedness set among our members, **contaminating** and **depraving** the whole body and setting on fire the wheel of birth, being itself ignited by hell. 7For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea animal, can be tamed and has been tamed by human genius. 8But the human tongue can be tamed by **no man**. It is a restless (undisciplined, irreconcilable) evil, full of **deadly poison**.

# James 3:1-12

- 9 With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse men who were made in God's likeness!  
10 Out of the same mouth come forth **blessing** and **cursing**. These things, my brethren, ought not to be so.  
11 Does a fountain send forth from the same opening fresh water and bitter? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine figs? Neither can a salt spring furnish fresh water.

# Controlling Our Tongue

- Controlling our tongue is HARD!
- James 1:26  
“If anyone thinks himself to be religious and does not bridle his tongue but deludes his own heart, this person's religious service is **worthless.**” (AMP)
- “Jika ada seorang menganggap dirinya beribadah, tetapi tidak **mengekang** lidahnya, ia menipu dirinya sendiri, maka sia-sialah ibadahnya.”
- "I have often regretted my speech, never my silence." - Publius (a Greek Sage)

# Controlling Our Tongue

- James 1:19 Understand [this], my beloved brethren. Let every man be quick to hear, **slow to speak**, slow to take offense and to get angry.
- Talk is cheap because the supply always exceeds the demand. One of the lessons of history is that nothing is often a good thing to do and always a clever thing to say.- Will Durant.
- Woman speaks with less effort than a man.
- Bible: tongue = evil, full of deadly poison, world of wickedness, contaminating our body, restless (buas), untameable.
- We speak too much! We need to learn to **control our tongue**.

# Our Tongue Reveals True Content of Our Heart

Luke 6:45 For out of the **abundance of the heart**, his **mouth speaks**

Mat. 12:34 You offspring of vipers! How can you speak good things when you are evil? For out of the fullness (the overflow, the superabundance) of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 The good man from his inner good treasure flings forth good things, and the evil man out of his inner evil storehouse flings forth evil things.

Ephesians 4:29 Let no foul or polluting language, nor evil word nor unwholesome or worthless talk [ever] come out of your mouth, but only such [speech] as is good and beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need and the occasion, that it may be a blessing and give grace (God's favor) to those who hear it.

# Our Tongue Reveals True Content of Our Heart

- Ephesians 5:4 Let there be no filthiness (obscenity, indecency) nor foolish and sinful (silly and corrupt) talk, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting or becoming; but instead voice your thankfulness to God.

Demikian juga perkataan yang kotor, yang kosong atau yang sembrono--karena hal-hal ini tidak pantas--tetapi sebaliknya ucapkanlah syukur

- Matthew 12:36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.

Tetapi Aku berkata kepadamu: Setiap kata sia-sia yang diucapkan orang harus dipertanggungjawabkannya pada hari penghakiman.



# Our Tongue Reveals True Content of Our Heart

- Pengkhotbah 5:2 Karena itu sebagai mana mimpi disebabkan oleh banyak kesibukan, demikian juga percakapan **bodoh** disebabkan oleh **banyak** perkataan.
- Filthiness (obscenity, indecency) talk
- Foolish (silly & corrup) talk
- Coarse jesting & mocking
- Gossip

Speak the truth in love (Prov 27:5) to lead your brothers/sisters to correct path (Eph. 4:15).

# Our Tongue Reveals True Content of Our Heart

Phil.4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is **true**, whatever is **noble**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **admirable** —if anything is **excellent** or **praiseworthy** —**think** about such things.

- Rotary Club. Of the things we think, say or do
  1. Is it the TRUTH?
  2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
  3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
  4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?
- Fill your heart with God's Word
- Kolose 3:2 Pikirkan perkara diatas.

# Our Tongue Reveals Our Character and Spiritual Maturity

- James 1:26

“If anyone thinks himself to be religious and does not bridle his tongue but deludes his own heart, this person's religious service is **worthless.**” (AMP)

“Jikalau ada seorang menganggap dirinya beribadah, tetapi tidak **mengekang** lidahnya, ia menipu dirinya sendiri, maka sia-sialah ibadahnya.”

- Your religious service is worthless without being able to control your tongue.
- Talents, gifts, ministry, often being mistaken with spiritual maturity.

# Our Tongue Reveals Our Character and Spiritual Maturity

- Living as New Man/Woman (Manusia Baru) on Ephesians 4:17-3 and as Children of Light on Ephesians 5: 29  
Janganlah ada perkataan kotor keluar dari mulutmu, tetapi pakailah perkataan yang baik untuk membangun, di mana perlu, supaya mereka yang mendengarnya, beroleh kasih karunia.
- Lying & exaggerating  
Col 3:9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices
- Lying can cause generational curse (Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob)
- Slander/fitnah

# Our Tongue Reveals Our Character and Spiritual Maturity

- Complaining/Whining.

Don't COMPLAINT, be CONTENT!

Phil 4:12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being **content** in any and **every** (all) situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

- Not keeping a secret

“A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.” (Proverbs 11:13)

# Our Tongue Determines Our Destiny

Prov 18: 21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Rm. 10:10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Don't make negative confessions.

Your confession determines your conclusion.

(12 Israel spies: 10 didn't make it, 2 made it)

# Controlling Our Tongue

- We are the Royal Priesthood, Children of the King of kings. Live, Act, Think, Speak like one. (1 Pet 2:9)
- Phil.4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is **true**, whatever is **noble**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **admirable** —if anything is **excellent** or **praiseworthy** —**think** about such things.
- Is your speech speaking life, faith, encouragement, edification, Truth?