

Key thought from last week: **He should teach for the purpose of edifying the Body of Christ (The Church)**
1 Corinthians 14:26 (NASB) ²⁶What is *the outcome* then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

James 3:1 - 12 (NLT) ¹Dear brothers and sisters not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly. ²Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way. ³We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. ⁴And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. ⁵In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. ⁶And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself. ⁷People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. ¹⁰And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! ¹¹Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? ¹²Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring.

- What we say and what we *don't* say are both important.
- Proper speech is not only saying the right words at the right time, it is also controlling our desire to say what we shouldn't.
- Examples of an untamed tongue include: gossiping, belittling, cursing, bragging, manipulating, false teaching, exaggerating, complaining, flattering, and lying.
- Before speaking we should ask, "Is this what I really want to say? Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it kind?"

Psalms 39:1 (NLT) ¹ I said to myself, "I will watch what I do and not sin in what I say. I will hold my tongue when the ungodly are around me."

Psalms 19:12 - 14 (KJV) ¹² Who can understand *his* errors? cleanse thou me from secret *faults*.

¹³ Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous *sins*; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Monday Morning: Action Step - "Wait before responding to a comment, criticism, or piece of gossip."

e.g. "Is this what I really want to say? Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it kind?"

Proverbs 13:3 (ESV) ³ Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.