

**Sermon: “The Taming of the Tongue!” James 3:1-12
by Pete Seiferth**

Northminster Presbyterian Church, Tucson, Arizona
July 17, 2005

James is deeply concerned about _____ in the church.

James elevates the role of _____ as a great calling
with a great responsibility.

“We who teach will be judged more strictly.”

A Tale of Two _____:

1. The H_____ Tongue

Like a _____ in a _____ mouth...

Like a _____ on a _____

...a helpful tongue can steer us in the right _____,
just like a responsible teacher!

2. The H_____ Tongue

Like a _____ set by a small spark...

It can't be _____!?

*The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the
mouth of the fool gushes folly. Proverbs 15:2*

The church's worst _____ and every day _____:

vs. 9 - “With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with
it we curse men, who have been made **in God's likeness**. 10
Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers,
this should not be.”

A hurtful tongue has its origins in our _____.

vs. 11-12 - Can both fresh water and salt water flow from
the same spring? My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or
a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce
fresh water.

“Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree
bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its
fruit. ...out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.”
Jesus, in Matthew 12:33-34

Don't only _____ your tongue, _____ your heart!

The GIGO Principle - _____ in, _____ out.

“Bad input produces bad output”

...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. Phil. 4:8

Listening before speaking...

...gives _____ to the speaker.

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in hu-
mility consider others better than yourselves. Phil. 2:3*

“The deepest hunger of the human heart is to be under-
stood.” -from “Habit 5 – Seek First to Understand... Then
to be Understood” in, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Fami-
lies, by Stephen R. Covey

... gives you a _____ of being heard!

Remember 1:19-20! “Everyone should be quick to listen,
slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger
does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.”