

Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.

James 1:1-12

TAMING THE TONGUE

James 3:1-12

Main Thought: In James 3:1-12, we discover that maturing followers of Jesus Christ are learning to tame their tongues by recognizing the following truths.

1. WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT WE WILL BE HELD _____ FOR WHAT WE _____. (vv 1-2)

2. WE MUST RECOGNIZE ITS _____ FOR _____ OR FOR _____. (vv 3-5)

3. WE MUST RECOGNIZE IT IS CAPABLE OF _____ THE _____. (vv 6-8)

4. WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT ITS INCONSISTENCIES ARE _____ IN ITS _____. (vv 9-12)

5. _____

1) Ask God to _____ your lips. (Is. 6:5-7)

2) Pray for _____ of your _____.

3) _____ and _____ of sinful speech.

4) _____ yourself regarding your speech.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS

1. Read James 3:1-12. What is the overall theme of the passage?

2. What issue do you think James is addressing in verse 1? Why do you think people in James' day wanted to be seen as teachers? Why will teachers be judged more strictly?

3. What is James' point about the tongue in verses 2-5? Explain how his three illustrations relate to his point?

4. James emphasizes the power of words in verse 6. How can a person's words mess up their whole life? (See Galatians 3:19-21 – which acts of the sinful nature relate to our words?)

5. Give an example in your own life, without sharing names or identities, of a time when someone's words impacted you in the way described in James 3:6.

6. What contrast does James use to make his point in verse 7-8? What is the point?

7. What example of the misuse of words does James give in vv. 9-10? Why are these two utterances incompatible in light of vv. 11-12?

8. Compare Jesus' words in Mt. 12:33-37 with what James says in this passage on the tongue (3:1-12). Write down your insights.

9. What do you learn from Jesus in Mt. 5:21-26 about the seriousness of your words and about dealing with the sins of the tongue?

10. What specific actions will you take this week to do a better job of taming your tongue?