

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, June 3, 2018
Can I Talk to You Like Grown-ups?
5: Metrics for Maturity IV

TEXT: 1 Peter 2:1-3 / James 3:2-12

We saw that God expects us to feed on His Word and grow because there are promises He has given that we cannot grasp as babies, and that we can and should grow into the likeness of Christ. We committed to praying for revelation, not just information.

How do we measure where we are? We looked at Christ as our goal, defined immaturity, the importance of developing consistency, the love standard, and the key of letting go in order to move on. Today: Watch your tongue, it is either a tool or a weapon:

- 1) The tongue controls the whole body: James 3:2-4
 - a) James says the control of the mouth is the singular mark of a mature person.
 - b) In context, teachers can damage people with an unruly tongue.
 - c) Parents can inflict damage on kids with an unruly tongue
 - d) The body can be controlled with the mouth like a bit in the mouth of a horse or the rudder on a ship
 - i) In the area of temptation: You have been set free. Say what God says. Colossians 1:13
 - ii) In the area of physical healing, I say what I believe. The tongue is my rudder. Keep the pressure on and the ship will turn.
 - e) **Scorecard:** What do you say when you are tempted to sin? When physical maladies attack your body?
- 2) The tongue can cause either great blessing or great cursing James 3:5-6
 - a) This description is frightening, but it emphasizes the importance of little member. One match can destroy a forest.
 - b) Notice, it has the power to harm the whole person.
 - i) Matthew 15:18-19
 - ii) Pr 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue
 - iii) Proverbs 18:20 The words of our mouth impact our lives profoundly. We can verbally limit what God's Word can accomplish in our lives. Proverbs 18:20 BBE ... **the produce of his lips will be his in full measure.**

- iv) **Scorecard:** Listening to what you prophesy about yourself, what is the outlook for your future?
 - v) Proverbs 15:30 ... a good report makes the bones healthy.
 - vi) The tongue defiles the mind and the emotions. Proverbs 21:23 / Proverbs 18:7
 - vii) **Scorecard:** Is your tongue a scourge, an anchor, or an anti-depressant?
- c) Words impact other lives: James 3:7-12
 - i) Proverbs 15:30 ... a good report makes the bones healthy.
 - ii) Proverbs 15:4 It breaks the spirit.
 - iii) Psalms 64:3. Like swords and arrows
 - iv) Proverbs 16:23-24 Pleasant words are like a honeycomb
 - v) **Scorecard:** How does your tongue impact the ones you love the most? Listen and watch.
 - d) The situation almost sounds hopeless. Verse 8 says the tongue is untamable through human effort.
- 3) Taming the tongue:
 - a) **Pray a guard over your mouth.** Psalms 141:2-3
 - b) **Feed** your heart on the Word of God and **fast** it from the things of the world. Matthew 12:34 / Proverbs 16:23 / Proverbs 4:20-27. Keep your heart with all diligence. Work at it. It is the hand on your rudder
 - c) **Pray in the Spirit.** 1 Corinthians 14:14. It brings the tongue under the control of the spirit stream.
 - d) **Formulate a tongue training plan:**
 - i) Prayer time: When, where, how long
 - (1) Asking God for help, repenting for verbal miscues
 - (2) Praying in tongues
 - ii) Feeding on the Word time: when, where, what. A plan of what to read and how to do it
 - i) Fasting harmful input. What do you hear coming from your mouth and where does it get into your heart? What will you do with the time you spend gorging on junk? Be specific and realistic.