

**James 3:9-12**  
The Tainted Tongue

*Let the words of my mouth ...*

- I. Blessing God
  - A. Whole-hearted Worship
  - B. And a Thousand Tongues
- II. Cursing Man
  - A. Bashing Images of God
  - B. Polluted Offerings
- III. Does Not Mix
  - A. It Ought Not Be
  - B. Finding a Fix

*... be acceptable in Your sight.*

**Children, Listen ...**

1. How do we bless God with our tongues?
2. How do we curse people with our words?
3. Is the problem if we do both?
4. If our words hurt people, what does that say about our heart?
5. What should we do if we speak hurtful words to others?

**Incongruous Words ~ Divided Hearts**

Just when you thought you could check tongue-control off your list of sanctification needs you find out there is more. Yes, the Bible takes the use of the tongue very seriously so it behooves us to examine our use of it very closely: we have looked at the teachers tongue, the issues of lying and slander – and we hope to look at gossip and abuse – there are plenty more tongue topics addressed in God's Word but with today's topic included we will have covered the main areas. At the root of what we say is how we think and feel in our minds and hearts as Jesus says. Today we consider the incongruity of blessing God and cursing man. If we are talking *formal worship*, James makes it clear that we have polluted it if we try to both praise God while at the same time cursing others. If we are talking *life as worship* we simply need to see that we are dividing the commands (something we ought not to do!) if we are inconsistent with our attitudes and expressions of them toward God verses man. We are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind soul and strength, and we are to love our neighbor (created in the image of God) as ourselves. Let us be sure to stop along the path toward worship and consider how we use our tongues – if there is twisted incongruity let's seek the Lord's help to straighten things out!