

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for September 19, 1999**

**Dale Whitehead**

**"Taming the Tongue"**

**James 3:1-12**

Why do we need to work at taming or controlling our tongue?

We need to work at taming or controlling our tongue because of the tongue's potential to bring judgment (James 3:1).

We need to work at taming or controlling our tongue because of the tongue's potential to effect the entire course of our lives (James 3:2-4).

We need to work at taming or controlling our tongue because of the tongue's potential to bring destruction (James 3:5-6)

We need to work at taming or controlling our tongue because of the tongue's potential to become unruly (James 3:7-8).

James's point in these two verses is simply that the human tongue is innately uncontrollable and untamable. It is wild, undisciplined, irresponsible, irrepressible, and savage. More so than any other creature.

The word "tame" (DAMAZO) is best understood "subdue" (Mark 5:4).

"Restless" translates (AKATASTATOS), the same word rendered "unstable" in James 1:8. And characterizes the tongue as being fickle; it cannot be trusted to stay submissively in its proper place.

The nature of the tongue is "evil" degraded in character and prone to be injurious.

How to detect a carrier of an evil report?

A carrier will usually test your spirit before giving you an evil report.

A carrier will usually check your acceptance before given the report to you. He may do this by asking for your opinion about a particular person.

A carrier will often get you to ask for the evil report by creating curiosity for it. He may ask you, "Have you heard about (the person)?"

A carrier may communicate an evil report by asking us for counsel or by sharing a concern for the person involved.

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A carrier may communicate an evil report by asking us to pray for someone that he or she is concerned and then use that opportunity to share with us vivid details of some perceived evil.

How to respond when confronted with what you might think is an evil report?

Ask them if they have gone to those directly involved?

Ask them if they have gone to the elder's or to someone that the elder's have formally set aside to assist them in ministry.

Ask them the reason why they are coming to you with this report.