

View

Viewpoints

Speech Impediments

I'm not talking about stuttering or lisps. I'm talking about the way our speech tends to put obstacles in the way of healthy relationships. Marriages are wrecked by the force of speech; children and parents become estranged because someone couldn't hold his tongue.

It is not courteous to tell someone to "shut up," and certainly not politically correct, but some would do well to try it once-in-awhile.

Generally, we think much more highly of people who measure their speech and guard their words. Yes, it's true that some are so "guarded" that you'll never get to know them. But discretion is appreciated more often than not.

James had a lot to say about the tongue. He says it is a small member of our body that can cause a huge fire. In fact, he says flatly: "The tongue is a fire" (James 3:6). He also said it is a "restless evil, full of deadly poison" (3:8). Wow. That's not good.

His main point is in 3:9 where he says that, with the same tongue, we bless God and curse people, who are made in the likeness of God. That's the surest manifestation of "the restless evil, full of deadly poison" – how we speak about others.

Some people would do better if they would just bite their tongue more often than they do. The writers of Proverbs compliment the prudent and criticize the one who talks too much: "a babbling fool will come to ruin" (Pr. 10:8); "whoever restrains his lips is prudent" (Pr. 10:19); when a man speaks too soon, "there is more hope for a fool than for him" (Pr. 29:20).

But the big problem is that our speech can get us into trouble. As the saying goes, it is better to be silent and be thought a fool than to open one's mouth and remove all doubt. The following article makes the point in an amusing way.

DP

The church of Christ

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John Daniels: 916/985-3090
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Steve Dickey: 916/983-1071
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Eric Fields: 916/817-6495
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Services

Sunday Morning Assembly
9:30 AM
Sunday Evening: 5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Study
7:30 PM

Classes for all ages.
Private classes arranged
at your convenience.
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Hung by the Tongue

BY GARY EBY

Some people just have a knack for saying the wrong thing at the wrong time. They are being, "Hung By the Tongue!"

A state trooper pulled a man over for speeding on a deserted road. Since the road was clear and the weather fine, the trooper had indicated that he may not give the man a ticket, and let them off with a warning. He even complimented both the man and his wife for wearing their seat belts. At that point the woman leaned over and said, "Well, officer, when he drives the speeds he does, you have to wear them." That's when the trooper wrote the ticket. Hung By the Tongue!

Gene and Carolyn were entertaining for the first time since the birth of their baby. Everything ran smoothly until one of Gene's buddies arrived with his new girlfriend – a woman whom Carolyn did not particularly care for. She beckoned her husband upstairs with the excuse that they had to check on the baby. In the privacy of the nursery, she spoke freely of her disdain for the new guest. When they went downstairs to rejoin the party, they were greeted with an awkward silence – except for the occasional murmuring of the sleeping baby that came from the infant monitor sitting on the table. *Hung By the Tongue!*

There is an ancient Japanese proverb that says, "A tongue three inches long can kill a man six feet tall."

If you are continually being "hung by your tongue," you can be "loosed from the noose" if you would just learn to engage your mind a little bit before you speak! Here's the process... **think... then speak!** I believe that we need to

make our words sweet... just in case we have to eat them!

The words of your mouth are a creative force. They play a big part in predestining your future. Your words are the architects of your life. The tongue is like a tool. We need to use our

tools of the present to build our future we desire.

You see, your future will someday be your present. Your present will someday be your past. You can chart the course of your future by your compass... your tongue. It will guide you like a rudder... into

either troubled waters or a calm sea. But, don't be misled... it WILL guide you.

If you can change what you think about, you can change what comes out of your mouth. What comes out of your mouth will someday be in your future.

The words you speak create an atmosphere. If you are going to have a meeting and you really pump it up and build it, what happens? People come with expectancy! They come excited. Your words have set the stage for success! One of the foundational revelations of a wise leader is to learn to control his or her words!

Remember, Samson slew 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of an donkey. Way too many businesses, lives, and relationships are destroyed with the same weapon...

Be loosed from the Noose! Refuse to be... *Hung By the Tongue!*