

James 3

Chapter 3 of 5 · 18 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Taming the Tongue

¹ My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

² For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

³ Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.

⁴ Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

⁵ Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

⁷ For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:

⁸ But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

⁹ Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

¹⁰ Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

Wisdom from Above

13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

God — Θεός (Theos)

God

The Greek **Theos** (Θεός) refers to deity, used both for the one true God and false gods. Context determines whether it denotes the Father specifically or the Godhead generally.

Mercy — ἔλεος (Eleos)

Mercy, compassion

The Greek **eleos** (ἔλεος) denotes compassionate mercy—pity for those in distress. God is 'rich in mercy' (Ephesians 2:4), withholding deserved punishment and granting undeserved kindness.

Righteous — δίκαιος (Dikaios)

Righteous, just

The Greek **dikaios** (δίκαιος) means righteous or just—conforming to God's standard. Christ's righteousness is imputed to believers through faith (Romans 4:5), making them legally righteous before God.

Word — λόγος (Logos)

Word, reason, message

The Greek **Logos** (Λόγος) means word, reason, or message—the rational principle underlying reality. John identifies Christ as the eternal Logos: 'In the beginning was the Word' (John 1:1).

Truth — ἀλήθεια (Aletheia)

Truth, reality

The Greek **aletheia** (ἀλήθεια) denotes truth or reality—that which corresponds to actuality. Jesus declared, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life' (John 14:6), embodying ultimate reality.

CROSS REFERENCES

James 3:1 **Parallel theme:** Leviticus 10:3; Matthew 10:24; 23:13; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Timothy 1:7; 2:7; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:3

James 3:2 **Parallel theme:** James 1:4; 1:26; 1 Kings 8:46; Psalms 34:13; Proverbs 13:3; 20:9; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:10; 1 Peter 3:10. **Word:** Matthew 12:37

James 3:3 **Parallel theme:** James 1:26; 2 Kings 19:28; Psalms 32:9; 39:1

James 3:5 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 10:3; 17:10; Proverbs 12:18; 15:2; 18:21; Jeremiah 18:18; Ezekiel 28:2; Jude 1:16

James 3:6 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 64:3; 140:3; Proverbs 6:19; 15:1; 16:27; Matthew 5:22; Mark 7:15; Luke 16:24; Acts 5:3; 6:13

James 3:8 **Parallel theme:** James 3:6; Deuteronomy 32:33; Psalms 55:21; 57:4; 58:4; 59:7; 140:3; Ecclesiastes 10:11; Romans 3:13. **Evil:** Revelation 12:9

James 3:9

Parallel theme: Psalms 10:7; 59:12; Isaiah 29:13; Acts 2:26. **Blessing:** Psalms 62:4. **Curse:** 2 Samuel 19:21; Matthew 26:74. **Creation:** Genesis 5:1; 9:6. **References God:** Psalms 108:1

James 3:10 **Blessing:** Romans 12:14. **Sin:** Genesis 20:9; 1 Peter 3:9. **Parallel theme:** Micah 3:11; 1 Corinthians 3:3; 1 Timothy 5:13

James 3:12 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 12:33

James 3:13 **Parallel theme:** James 2:18; Matthew 5:5; Galatians 5:23; Philippians 1:27; Colossians 3:12; 1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:25; Titus 3:2. **Good:** James 3:17; 1 Peter 2:12

James 3:14 **Parallel theme:** James 3:16; Proverbs 14:30; Acts 5:17; Romans 13:13; 1 Corinthians 3:3; 13:4; 2 Corinthians 12:20; Philippians 1:15. **Glory:** Philippians 2:3. **Truth:** James 5:19

James 3:15

Parallel theme: James 1:5; 1:17; 3:17; 1 Corinthians 2:14; 3:3; 3:19; 2 Corinthians 1:12; Philippians 3:19. **Evil:** Jeremiah 4:22; 1 Timothy 4:1

James 3:16

Parallel theme: James 3:14; 1 Corinthians 3:3; 14:33; Galatians 5:20. **Evil:** 1 John 3:12

James 3:17

Parallel theme: James 1:5; 3:15; Proverbs 2:6; Matthew 5:8; Luke 21:15; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 3:3; 3:18. **Good:** James 1:17; Romans 12:9

James 3:18 **Peace:** Matthew 5:9. **Righteousness:** James 1:20; Proverbs 11:18; 11:28; 11:30; Hosea 10:12; Philippians 1:11; Hebrews 12:11. **Parallel theme:** John 4:36; Galatians 6:8

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