

## **SINS OF THE TONGUE WITHIN THE CHURCH**

In our lesson text, James deals with problem of sins of tongue within the church body.

Sins of tongue are 1 of 3 categories of personal sins we mention before every bible lesson taught at DSBC:

- Sins of the tongue
- Mental attitude sins
- Overt sins.

A sample of these three categories of personal sins is given by Paul in (2 Cor.12:20-21). Additional sins of the tongue could include maligning, back-biting, judgmental, grumbling, complaining, destructive criticism, lying, flattery for self-gain.

In our lesson text, James issued a standing negative command – “stop complaining (stenazo/ p.a.impv.2pl/ me). Pay attention to second person plural (**2pl**/ you all/ church body).

Sins of the tongue attack the harmony and unity of the fellowship and ministry of a local church body – “against (kata+gen. of opposition) one another (allelon/ gplm).” James used this prepositional phrase to describe this attack by sins of the tongue.

James used the reciprocal pronoun (allelon/ root allos) [one of the same kind/ believers of same church]. Grammar rule of reciprocal pronoun – “A plural subject (brethren) is represented as affected by an interchange of action signified in the verb (you must never complain against one another).” (Dana and Mantey, pg.131)

<b>This lesson will study <u>four aspects</u> of the negative effect of Sins of tongue within a Church body.</b>
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### **1. Paul addressed a similar problem within the Philippian Church body (Phil.2:14-16).**

In (Phil.2:14), Paul issued a positive standing command – “Do (poieo/ p.a.impv.2pl) all things **without** grumbling or disputing.”

In (Phil.2:15-16), he issued **two** doctrinal reasons for obeying this command:

- **1<sup>st</sup> reason** – “**so that** you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world.”
- **2<sup>nd</sup> reason** – “holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.”

### **2. Sins of the tongue can be developed from carnal thinking.**

Carnal thinking (self-serving gratification of pleasure) and/ or Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (worldly) thinking can lead to a false assumption, leading to a false interpretation, leading to a false expectation, resulting in a false application.

An example of how sins of the tongue affect an assembly body of believers was the Exodus grumbling generation.

(Ex.16:3) “The son of Israel said to them (spiritual leadership), ‘would that we had died by the Lord’s hand in the land of Egypt, **when** we sat by the pots of meat, **when** we ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into the wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.’” (Acts 7:39)

God freed them by grace and promise from the slave bondage of Egypt after 400 years (Gen.15:13). But they were unwilling (second negative volition) to put off their (worldly) slavery thinking of Egypt and put on (Divine Viewpoint) freedom thinking of promise (Eph.4:22-24; Gal.5:1, 13).

They left Egypt by the grace of Christ’s blood upon their homes (Ex.12:12-13). But now as freed people they were unwilling to put off Egypt’s bondage by the same grace of Christ’s blood (1 John 1:9).

### 3. The Israelites hated slavery and complained to Lord.

And at the right time in plan of God, the Lord answered their prayer by the promise of the word of God (Gen.15:13; 1 John 5:14-15; 2 Tim.2:13).

In (Ex.3:7-9), God answered their prayer right on time (Heb.13:5, 8; Rom.5:6).

(Ex.3:7a) “I have **seen** the affliction of my people who are in Egypt (400 yrs).”

(Ex.3:7b) “I have given **heed** to their cry.”

(Ex.3:7c) “I am **aware** of their suffering.”

“I have come down to **deliver** them from the power of Egyptians.” (Ex.3:8a)

“I have come down to bring them up from the land to a **good and spacious land**, to a land flowing with **milk and honey**.” (Ex.3:8b)

### 4. They were so pre-occupied with what they didn’t have (details of life) that they missed the importance of what they had in Christ, the source of the all details of life forever (John 14:6).

Complaining about the lack of details of life shows the lack of spiritual growth capacity and the appreciation for both the details and the divine source (Phil.4:19; Ps.78:24; John 6:31-36).

In (Heb.3-4), God called their complaining a PROVOCATION (parapikrasmos) (Heb.3:8, 15, 16).

Hymn: **Count your blessings, count one by one.** God, our divine source, is always first not last.