



JAMES 3:1-2

CAUTION FOR CARELESS COMMUNICATORS

TEACHING IN THE CHURCH IS NOT FOR THE ASSERTIVE AND POLISHED, BUT THE SINCERE AND HUMBLE (3:1)

¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers,

- The warning James gives here is not out of line with Jesus and the Apostle Paul.
 - Caring for others and sharing the truth is something to desire and to pray God supplies.
 - Matthew 9:36–38
 - Preparing others to teach is a proper task.
 - 2 Timothy 2:1–2
 - Being an elder, overseer and teaching pastor is a noble desire.
 - 1 Timothy 3:1–3

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- James does not feel that anyone should take this pursuit lightly.
 - Teaching in the church is significant and influential.
 - In context, those whose lives are not bearing the fruit of humble dependent faith should not engage in the task.
 - The task of teaching and leading should not be given to those who are immature and headstrong.
 - 1 Timothy 5:22
 - Polished rhetoric and charming personalities can mask divisive, man-centered doctrine.
 - Romans 16:17–18
 - Teachers in the church should not be tickling ears, but unpacking a unified and cohesive understanding of biblical truth.
 - Acts 20:26–27
 - Everyone should strive to be communicators with devotion to Jesus, to doctrine, and to being people characterized by humility and dependence.

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for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

- Those who think that knowing the Bible is more important than living the Bible, are a danger to the church and themselves.
 - Matthew 7:1–5
 - Those who vaunt themselves over the frailties and failures of others give little consideration to the irregularities and offenses of their own lives.
- Teachers will be “*judged with strictness*” because our words are one of the hardest things on earth to control.
- Every person here knows the power of words because you have seen your own words deceive and hurt, heal and help.
 - Matthew 12:33–37
 - 1 Corinthians 3:12–15

VERBAL RESTRAINT DISPLAYS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT FORM OF SELF-CONTROL (3:2)

² For we all stumble in many ways.

- The reality is all of us have weaknesses, selfishness and sin.
- Life is a challenging road of progressive sanctification.

And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.

- Our sins and weaknesses vary greatly between us.
- But sinning by what we say plagues us all!
- James 1:19–21
 - But how can we control our tongue or anything else for that matter?
 - Romans 7:24
 - The only deliverance possible is surrendering one's life and tongue to the grace of God provided for you in the cleansing and forgiving work of Jesus Christ.
 - Romans 7:24–25

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Are you desiring a position of prominence before God grips you with a heart of brokenness over you own sin and selfishness?
- What does the common flow of your conversation reveal about the reality of your heart?
- Are you ready to get serious about your need for Jesus?



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