

James: Faith on Display  
Faith on Display in Your Conversations  
James 3:1-18

Most of us were told at one time or another, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” And most of us very quickly realized how untrue that statement can be. We were told to use it as a mantra to build up walls of protection so that we would not be hurt by the things people said. But words matter and we cannot build tall enough walls to protect us from the hurtfulness of words.

1. Our words will be judged by God.
  
2. Our words should be edifying to others.
  
3. Our words should seek to cultivate peace.

We live in contradiction when we fail to guard our words. We create chaos for ourselves and confusion for others when we in one moment praise God and in another moment curse men. The gospel of Jesus, the cross of Christ, reminds us that a life of faith is satisfied with letting God have the last word in our lives. Let’s let Him do the speaking for us.

Reflection

Read Psalm 141:3-4 and consider carefully what King David was asking God to do for Him. Take time to ask God to do the same for you. How would that change your words? How would it change the way you interact with others? How would your conversations be different tomorrow if God honored your request today? What relationships in the church need reconciliation so that the Spirit is not grieved when we gather on Sundays?