

## **Check Your Tongue**

For many years, doctors would take a close look at the tongue of a patient in order to determine his health. The ability of many doctors to diagnose various illnesses simply by checking the tongue is amazing. While physicians gauge the health of an individual by the tongue, the great Physician can gauge the health of the soul by the tongue. In relation to how the tongue speaks, Jesus said, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil things" (Matthew 12:35). Often, we can get a good idea about a man's character by the way he speaks. Our speech is very important. Not only does our tongue reflect the health of our soul, but the health of our soul influences the tongue. Paul spoke often about the proper use of the tongue, and James places a great deal of stress upon controlling the tongue (Eph. 4:25, 29-32; James 3:1-12). Not only can your corrupted soul defile your tongue, but your tongue can defile your clean soul. Oh, the importance of the tongue! So much so that Jesus stated, "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matthew 12:37). So, while you are living day by day, don't forget to check your tongue!

- by **Michael Pickford**

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## **We Love You This Much**

Regarding the discipline that a parent ought to administer to a child, the word of the Lord says, "*He that spareth his rod hateth his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes*" (Pro. 13:24). The worst thing a parent can do for an unruly child is to let him go unrestrained. True love of a parent is demonstrated in the correction of a rebellious child.

This principle applies in the church's discipline (or lack of) toward disorderly members. If we love them we will discipline them. Paul told the Thessalonians, "*Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us*" (2 Thes. 3:6). To the Corinthians he noted that this is church action that should be taken "*when ye are gathered together*" (1 Cor. 5:4).

Brethren, when we fail to discipline the unruly of the church we are manifesting a lack of love. It is as though we are saying, "we love you THIS much" and the "this" is a centimeter. Fact is, to forgo withdrawing from the disorderly is evidence of hatred - not love.

May we grow in our love one for another!

- by **David McPherson**

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## **Six Questions For Young People**

1. What kind of son or daughter will I be? The world says, "You are only young once, so enjoy it in every way you can." This is easy for most to accept because they want freedom from restraints. However, young people should be obedient to God and to their parents (Ephesians 6:1-3; Proverbs 10:1; 13:1).
2. What kind of character shall I develop? It takes no planting, watering, or cultivating to grow weeds, nor does it take effort to grow worthless character. Careful attention and diligent effort are required for noble character (Ecclesiastes 7:1; 1 Timothy 4:12).
3. Who will I choose as my friends? Good friends promote good morals and vice versa (1 Corinthians 15:33). Avoid the crowd that drinks, dances, uses profanity, and ridicules people who serve God.
4. What will be my occupation? In far too many instances, too much emphasis is placed on money (Matthew 16:26). Furthermore, one must be careful to choose an occupation that is honorable and legitimate. Dishonest gains and get-rich schemes must be avoided (Proverbs 16:8).
5. Who will I marry? If there is ever a place for clear minds and true ideas, it is in marriage. God's laws must be understood, respected, and heeded (Matthew 5:32; 19:9). Marriage is for life (Romans :2-3; 1 Corinthians 7:39). Marry someone who will encourage you in the way of salvation.

6. What will I do with my life? If you have never obeyed the gospel, you should answer, "I will be a Christian" (Luke 9:26). If you are already a Christian, you should answer, "I will be faithful" (Matthew 24:12-13).

- by *David Riggs*

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### ***Using Good 'Bed-Side Manner'***

A trip to the doctor is seldom a pleasant experience. Usually such a visit is motivated by a physical malady of some sort that requires the doctor's medical expertise to diagnose and treat. We are already suffering some distress and discomfort, so we really want the doctor to show his best 'bed-side manner' to ease our minds and cure our bodies. We definitely DON'T want him to approach our situation with a harsh, negative attitude. We certainly don't want him to display a 'all is lost', 'there is no hope', 'this is the end' type of demeanor. We want him to be honest and thorough, to examine us with a critical eye, but at the same time we need him to be positive, encouraging, and helpful. And, if treatment is necessary – even a very serious type of treatment – we need him to handle it all in a loving and caring fashion.

Sometimes, unfortunately, dealing with our brethren is not a very pleasant experience either. It is, however, the case that occasionally we will need to deal with situations that we wish never had happened. Maybe someone has engaged in a sinful deed that has gained the attention of others in the church or the community. Perhaps it involved the teaching of a questionable or false doctrine. Or, it might just have been a case of very poor judgment on the part of a brother or sister. Whatever has caused this situation, honest and faithful Christians will feel compelled to address it.

How we attend to such matters says a lot about us, our character, our heart, and our love for one another. If we cannot, or will not, manage such instances with brotherly love and respect, then there is something gravely wrong. Just like the doctor who needs great 'bed-side manner', we need great discretion and tact in the church.

We can never ignore circumstances that require our attention. We definitely need to evaluate everything said and done in the church. We need a critical eye for everything involved in our work and worship together. But, we urge great caution, diligent prayer, and loving action on the part of every disciple. Think!

- by *Greg Gwin*