



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAKE ORION

*The Tongue:* Part 1 & 2

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TEXT: PROVERBS 10:11–14; 18–21; 31, 32

## Part One:

### I. THE PURPOSE OF THE TONGUE, cf., Matt 12:34-37 James 3:9–10

A. **The Theological Purpose For Language**—*for God to communicate with His image bearers and for image bearers to communicate with God*

B. **The Social Purpose**—*for image bearers to communicate with other image bearers about God*

### II. THE PROFANE USES OF THE TONGUE

#### A. Deceiving

–*Proverbs 12:22 Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, But those who deal faithfully are His delight.*

–*Proverbs 15:4 Gentle words are a tree of life; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.*

–*Proverbs 21:6 A fortune made by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare.*

–*Proverbs 26:28 A lying tongue hates those it crushes, And a flattering mouth works ruin.*

#### B. Slandering

–*Proverbs 10:18 He who conceals hatred has lying lips, And he who spreads slander is a fool.*

–*Proverbs 30:10 Do not slander a slave to his master, Or he will curse you and you will be found guilty.*

#### C. Gossiping

–*Proverbs 18:8 The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, And they go down into the innermost parts of the body.*

–*Proverbs 25:23 The north wind brings forth rain, And a backbiting tongue, an angry countenance.*

–*Proverbs 26:22 The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, And they go down into the innermost parts of the body.*

#### 1. Gossip stirs up strife and separates intimate friends.

–*Proverbs 16:28 A perverse man spreads strife, And a slanderer separates intimate friends.*

#### 2. Gossip is the source of quarrels.

–*Proverbs 26:20 For lack of wood the fire goes out, And where there is no whisperer,*

*contention quiets down.*

### **3. A gossip betrays a confidence.**

*–Proverbs 11:13 He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.*

*–Proverbs 17:9 He who conceals a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.*

### **4. A gossip cannot be trusted.**

*–Proverbs 20:19 He who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets, Therefore do not associate with a gossip.*

## **D. Babbling**

*–Proverbs 10:19 When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, But he who restrains his lips is wise.*

*–Proverbs 17:28 Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise; When he closes his lips, he is considered prudent.*

*–Proverbs 18:2 A fool does not delight in understanding, But only in revealing his own mind.*

## **E. False Witnessing**

*–Proverbs 14:5 A trustworthy witness will not lie, But a false witness utters lies.*

*–Proverbs 19:5 A false witness will not go unpunished, And he who tells lies will not escape.*

*–Proverbs 19:28 A crooked witness scorns justice, and the mouth of the wicked devours iniquity.*

*–Proverbs 21:28 A false witness will perish, But the man who listens to the truth will speak forever.*

*–Proverbs 25:18 Like a club and a sword and a sharp arrow Is a man who bears false witness against his neighbor.*

## **F. Mocking**

*–Proverbs 13:1 A wise son accepts his father's discipline, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.*

*–Proverbs 14:6 A scoffer seeks wisdom and finds none, But knowledge is easy to one who has understanding.*

*–Proverbs 15:12 A scoffer does not love one who reproves him, He will not go to the wise.*

*–Proverbs 17:5 Whoever mocks the poor shows contempt for their Maker; whoever gloats over disaster will not go unpunished.*

*–Proverbs 21:11 When the scoffer is punished, the naive becomes wise; But when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.*

*–Proverbs 22:10 Drive out the scoffer, and contention will go out, Even strife and dishonor will cease.*

*–Proverbs 30:17 The eye that mocks a father And scorns a mother, The ravens of the valley will pick it out, And the young eagles will eat it.*

## **G. Harsh Talking (perverse, reckless, harsh, evil, sly words)**

*–Proverbs 10:31–32 The speech of the righteous bears the fruit of wisdom, but the one who speaks perversion will be destroyed. 32 The lips of the righteous know what is pleasing, but the speech of the wicked is perverse.*

- Proverbs 12:18 *There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the tongue of the wise brings healing.*
- Proverbs 13:3 *The one who guards his mouth preserves his life; The one who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.*
- Proverbs 14:3 *In the mouth of the foolish is a rod for his back, But the lips of the wise will protect them.*
- Proverbs 15:1 *A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.*
- Proverbs 15:28 *The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.*
- Proverbs 17:4 *A wicked person listens to deceitful lips; a liar pays attention to a destructive tongue.*
- Proverbs 19:1 *Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity Than he who is perverse in speech and is a fool.*

## **H. Boasting**

- Proverbs 20:14 *"Bad, bad," says the buyer, But when he goes his way, then he boasts.*
- Proverbs 25:14 *Like clouds and wind without rain Is a man who boasts of his gifts falsely.*
- Proverbs 27:1–2 *Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth. 2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.*

## **I. Quarreling**

- Proverbs 15:18 *A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, But the slow to anger calms a dispute.*
- Proverbs 17:14 *The beginning of strife is like letting out water, So abandon the quarrel before it breaks out.*
- Proverbs 17:19 *He who loves transgression loves strife; He who raises his door seeks destruction.*
- Proverbs 19:13 *A foolish son is destruction to his father, And the contentions of a wife are a constant dripping.*
- Proverbs 20:3 *Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, But any fool will quarrel.*
- Proverbs 21:9 *It is better to live in a corner of a roof Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.*
- Proverbs 21:19 *It is better to live in a desert land Than with a contentious and vexing woman.*
- Proverbs 25:24 *It is better to live in a corner of the roof Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.*
- Proverbs 27:15–16 *A constant dripping on a day of steady rain And a contentious woman are alike; 16 He who would restrain her restrains the wind, And grasps oil with his right hand.*

## **J. Flattering**

- Proverbs 26:28 *A lying tongue hates those it crushes, And a flattering mouth works ruin.*
- Proverbs 28:23 *He who rebukes a man will afterward find more favor Than he who flatters with the tongue.*
- Proverbs 29:5 *A man who flatters his neighbor Is spreading a net for his steps.*

## Part Two:

### III. THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

- A. **The Power to Bring Death or Life**, *Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.*
- B. **The Power to Cut or to Heal**, *Proverbs 12:18 There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the tongue of the wise brings healing.*
- C. **The Power to Encourage or to Destroy**, *Proverbs 10:21 The lips of the righteous feed many, But fools die for lack of understanding.*
- D. **The Power to Turn Away Wrath Or Stir Up Anger**, *Proverbs 15:1-2 A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger. 2 The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, But the mouth of fools spouts folly.*

### IV. THE PRACTICAL WISDOM CONCERNING THE TONGUE

#### A. Learn When to Speak and When to Keep Silent.

–*Proverbs 10:19 When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, But he who restrains his lips is wise.*

–*Proverbs 13:3 The one who guards his mouth preserves his life; The one who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.*

–*Proverbs 17:27 He who restrains his words has knowledge, And he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding. 28 Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise; When he closes his lips, he is considered prudent.*

#### B. Think Carefully Before You Speak.

–*Proverbs 15:28 The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things*

–*Proverbs 16:21 The wise in heart will be called understanding, And sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness*

#### C. Look to Encourage with Your Words.

–*Proverbs 12:14 A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of his words, And the deeds of a man's hands will return to him.*

–*Proverbs 12:18 There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the tongue of the wise brings healing.*

–*Proverbs 15:4 A soothing tongue is a tree of life, But perversion in it crushes the spirit.*

–*Proverbs 18:4 The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; The fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook.*

–*Proverbs 18:20 With the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach will be satisfied; He will be satisfied with the product of his lips. 21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.*

**CONCLUSION: *PLEASE DO IT ON YOUR KNEES***

Well, I hear people who are talking about people most everywhere I go.  
To hear them tell it, they were there when it happened, there is nothing that they don't know.  
Well you may not approve of the things I do, but if you're gonna talk about me,  
Make sure what you are saying is done while you're praying and please do it on your knees.

You can tell the Lord all the things I have done that didn't seem right to you,  
But don't tell you neighbor cause he can never give me the grace to see me through.  
You can tell Him all about how weak I am and pray that He strengthens me,  
You can talk about me any time you want but please do it on your knees.

The Book says brother we're to love one another but love doesn't need any words.  
It is proven by the things we do and not say for actions speak louder than words.  
There will always be people who will talk about people, but if you're gonna talk about me,  
Then tell it to someone who can do something about it please do it on your knees.

You can tell the Lord all the things I have done that didn't seem right to you,  
But don't tell you neighbor cause he can never give me the grace to see me through.  
You can tell Him all about how weak I am and pray that He strengthens me,  
You can talk about me any time you want but please do it on your knees.