

UNRULY

I guess you are thinking this is another article about "out of control" children. Sorry to disappoint you. I am referring to that small part of the human anatomy called the tongue. The word "unruly" is used to describe the tongue in (James 3:8). The word suggests the idea of difficulty of control. The tongue is a powerful tool to build up or tear down. Nations have risen and fallen due to the power of the tongue. With proper use the tongue can comfort a weary heart and console a weeping child. It has the power to express the greatest of emotions. With the tongue we can confess the wonderful name of Jesus and share the "good news" with the world. However, James reminds us of the destruction that can come as a result of a failure to control the tongue. (Vs. 5) "Kindles fires", (Vs. 6) "World of iniquity", (Vs.6) "Defiles the body", (Vs. 8) "Can't tame", (Vs.8) "Unruly", (Vs.8) "Full of deadly poison". When Satan tempted Eve in the garden of Eden it was by using a deceptive, lying tongue. The serpent's tongue was full of deadly poison. Our true character is revealed by the tongue (Vs.2). Peter gives us a wonderful prescription for the good life in I Peter 3:10. "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile." Just like a wild animal the tongue can never be trusted. We must always be on guard and use it wisely. "And have put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth" (Colossians 3:8).

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