

gossip, slander, maligning, and judging from self-righteous arrogance. This is the conversation of the believer involved in legalism and moral degeneracy. They flatter the one who is listening to the maligning and slander of another. It's amazing how many friendships you'll see which are based solely on this.

The tongue is used to flatter the person listening to the slander. The slanderer is trying to persuade the person, while at the same time slandering the victim. Self-righteousness sets up a double standard of self-vindication on the one hand, while judging and maligning on the other hand. While justifying their sins of arrogance, these believers are guilty of the sins of the tongue.

There are two sins of the tongue involved here. The first is flattery and hypocrisy toward those to whom the believer is communicating his evil. The second is the gossip and maligning that the believer directs toward the one that he is speaking evil against. The double standard also means that in arrogance, the carnal believer ignores his own sins, while slandering, maligning, and judging the sins of others! The Lord spoke of this in **MAT 7:1-4**: **"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?"**

The carnal believer is distracted in two ways. First, he becomes a distraction to others through the function of legalism. Remember legalism is man's futile attempt to gain salvation or to continue in God's plan by way of some system of do's and don'ts. Secondly, by the slander, maligning, and judging of another believer, his self-righteous arrogance does not vindicate self, but condemns self, without his knowing it.

{to be continued}

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THE TEEN TREE OF LIFE

THE DOCTRINE OF THE SINS OF THE TONGUE

Part 2



June 26, 2016

PLEASE READ THIS FIRST...



BEFORE we begin, if you are a believer in Jesus Christ, take a moment to name your sins to God the Father. This will allow you to be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit as you read this booklet (EPH 5:18 & 1JO 1:9). IF YOU HAVE never believed in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you have that opportunity right now. Simply tell God the Father that you are believing on His Son Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. If you make that decision, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God! When you die, you will spend eternity with Him forever in heaven! (JOH 3:16 & ACT 16:31).

In our continuing study of the Doctrine of the Sins of the Tongue, let's look at the old sin nature which is so important to our study. The essence of the sin nature has four areas. The first is the area of weakness. This is the source of all temptation to sin. When linked with negative volition, this area of weakness results in personal sin. Remember, it is not a sin to be tempted, but it is a sin to succumb to that temptation.

The second is the area of strength. This produces a negative type of good, called human good. Human good is also called "dead works." Human good is the production of the believer in the cosmic system and it is not valid in God's eyes. The third area is the trends of the sin nature. These trends are legalism, which results in moral degeneracy, and antinomianism, which results in immoral degeneracy. The idea here is that the sin nature has two trends – one in which you sin though being moral (being arrogant, for example) and the other in which you commit immoral acts (like murder). The fourth area is the lust pattern of the old sin nature.

Lust refers to any area in life where your normal desires control you, and in doing so, destroys your Christian walk. The lust pattern of the sin nature destroys Bible doctrine as the number one priority in life. Lust destroys the motivation of the believer to execute the Pre-Designed Plan of God, neglecting the principle of Perception, Metabolization, and Application of Bible doctrine. Lust is a distraction to the normal operation of the Christian Way of Life. Lust divorces the believer from reality, which nullifies the understanding and use of the Problem-Solving Devices. Lust turns the believer into a tricky and deceitful person. Lust destroys the believer's motivation to glorify God and turns the believer's

motivation into self-promoting motivation. Lust can be for anything – money or power, for example!

There are also four categories of personal sin. The first category is emotional sins. For instance, sins related to fear, including worry and anxiety and sins related to hatred, including anger, violence, and murder. This category also includes sins related to self-pity and sins related to guilt. The second category of sins is mental attitude sins. These include arrogance, pride, jealousy, hardheartedness, bitterness, vindictiveness, excessive ambition and excessive competition, all motivational sins, and sinful thoughts.

The third category is our subject – Sins of the Tongue or verbal sins. These verbal sins include gossip, maligning, slander, judging, lying, and verbal deception. The fourth category is overt sins. They include sexual sins and criminal sins.

Let's take a closer look at verbal sins. Simply put, verbal sins originate from mental attitude sins, which lead to motivational sins, which lead to the sins of the tongue. Verbal sins are designed to destroy your life. Look at **JAM 3:5-10: So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell. For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.** What a verse!!

Three of the seven worst sins, from God's viewpoint, are related to our subject of verbal sins: **There are six things which the Lord hates, in fact, seven are an abomination to him: (1) Arrogant eyes, (2) a lying tongue, and (3) hands that shed innocent blood, (4) A right lobe that devises evil plans [anti-authority sins, conspiracy, and revolution], (5) feet which run rapidly to evil [a trouble-maker], (6) A false witness who utters lies [perjury], and (7) a person who spreads strife among the brethren [gossip, slander, maligning, judging]. (PRO 6:16-19)**

There is a double standard related to the sins of the tongue: **They speak emptiness one to another with flattering lips; and with a double standard they speak. (PSA 12:2)** The "emptiness" here is