

**Birmingham Bible Church**  
**Series: Taming Your Tongue**



**Title: The Meddling Tongue**

Introduction: People who meddle are those who are always prying into or meddling in the affairs of others. Meddling is intrusive and unwarranted interference. Dictionary.com says it means, “to involve oneself in a matter without right or invitation.” It is also referred to as being a busybody.

Meddlers also usually seek personal information directly from people. For example,

- How much did you pay for that house?
- How long can you afford to be off work?
- What did the doctor say about your condition?

Whether you are genuinely concerned or just plain curious be especially careful to avoid probing questions. We should keep our inquisitiveness within the bounds of what is socially and spiritually appropriate.

**Consequences of Meddling:**

- I. It will \_\_\_\_\_

**The beginning of strife** is as when one letteth out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be **meddled with**.

**Proverbs 17:14 (KJV)**

- II. Suffering can \_\_\_\_\_

Sometimes we can do something that can cause us to suffer. You will suffer if you stick your nose where it doesn't belong

**<sup>15</sup> Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or a thief, or any sort of criminal [in response to persecution], or as a troublesome meddler interfering in the affairs of others; <sup>16</sup> but if *anyone suffers* [ill-treatment] as a <sup>[a]</sup>Christian [because of his belief], he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God [because he is considered worthy to suffer] in this name.**  
**I Peter 4:15-16 (AMP)**

**Like one who grabs a dog by the ears [and is likely to be bitten]  
Is he who, passing by, stops to meddle with a dispute that is none of his  
business.**

**Proverbs 26:17 (AMP)**

**What to do about meddling:**

I. Mind \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>10</sup>For indeed you already do practice it toward all the <sup>[a]</sup>believers throughout Macedonia [by actively displaying your love and concern for them]. But we urge you, brothers and sisters, that you excel [in this matter] more and more, <sup>11</sup> and to make it your ambition to live quietly *and* peacefully, and to **mind your own affairs** and work with your hands, just as we directed you, <sup>12</sup> so that you will behave properly toward outsiders [exhibiting good character, personal integrity, and moral courage worthy of the respect of the outside world], and be dependent on no one *and* in need of nothing [be self-supporting].

**1 Thessalonians 4:10-12 (AMP)**

II. Be \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>11</sup> Indeed, we hear that some among you are leading an **undisciplined *and* inappropriate life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies [meddling in other people's business].** <sup>12</sup> Now such people we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to **settle down *and* work quietly and earn their own food *and* other necessities** [supporting themselves instead of depending on the hospitality of others].

**2 Thessalonians 3:11-12 (AMP)**

III. Allow \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>11-12</sup> Don't bad-mouth each other, friends. It's God's Word, his Message, his Royal Rule, that takes a beating in that kind of talk. You're supposed to be honoring the Message, not writing graffiti all over it. **God is in charge of deciding human destiny. Who do you think you are to meddle in the destiny of others?**

**James 4:12 (MSG)**

IV. Follow \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>13</sup> Someone from the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the *family* inheritance with me.” <sup>14</sup> **But He said to him, “Man, who appointed Me a judge or an arbitrator over [the two of] you?”** <sup>15</sup> Then He said to them, “Watch out and guard yourselves against every form of greed; for not even when one has an overflowing abundance does his life consist of *nor* is it derived from his possessions.”

**Luke 12:13-15 (AMP)**

Things to ponder:

- When tempted to meddle, ask yourself, “Do I have a sincere, unselfish motive for prying into this matter, or am I attempting to control things for my desired objectives?”
- Have I always been supportive of this person thus I have earned the right to interfere?
- Your goal is to be helpful. Refrain from using hurtful and judgmental words.
- Don’t expect people to agree with you right away. Give them time to absorb your advice.
- Respect the rights of others to make decisions for their lives.

*Prayer*

*Lord, help me to only seek information from others that will allow me to serve, love, and support them better. I will not interfere in the lives of others because it will not only affect me but my relationship with others as well. In Jesus name,*

*Amen!*

Answer key:

Consequences of meddling:

- I. It will start an argument
- II. Suffering can appear

What to do about meddling?

- I. Mind your business
- II. Be productive
- III. Allow God to work in their lives
- IV. Follow Jesus’ Example

**Small Group Guidelines**

- 1) Keep your sharing focused on your own thoughts and feelings.
- 2) Each person is free to express feelings without interruption.
- 3) We are here to support one another. We will not attempt to fix one another.
- 4) Privacy and confidentiality are basic requirements. What is shared in the group stays in the group. The only exception is when someone threatens to harm themselves or others. If that is shared, contact Pastor Mason or Lady Pam immediately.

### Discussion Questions:

1. According to Proverbs 11:3, how should we handle interfering in the private affairs of others?

<sup>13</sup> A busybody is revealing secret counsel, **And the faithful of spirit is covering the matter.**

**Proverbs 11:13 (Young's Literal Translation)**

2. In Peter 4:15, prying in other people's affairs is given equal weight with three other sins. What are they? What does that say to you?

<sup>15</sup> **Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or a thief, or any sort of criminal [in response to persecution], or as a troublesome meddler interfering in the affairs of others;** <sup>16</sup> but if *anyone suffers* [ill-treatment] as a [\[a\]](#)Christian [because of his belief], he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God [because he is considered worthy to suffer] in this name.

**I Peter 4:15-16 (AMP)**

3. Perhaps you are not a meddler but someone is trying to meddle in your affairs by asking you personal information. According to Galatians 6:1, what should be your **God-honoring response**?

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any sin, you who are spiritual [that is, you who are responsive to the guidance of the Spirit] are to **restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness [not with a sense of superiority or self-righteousness]**, keeping a watchful eye on yourself, so that you are not tempted as well.

Galatians 6:1 (AMP)

4. Name some beneficial things you learned from this lesson.