**Birmingham Bible Church**

**Series: Taming the Tongue**



**Title: The Slandering Tongue**

**Introduction:**

Slanderers make malicious, false, or even true statements about others with **the intent** of damaging their reputation, character, or good name. Given certain circumstances, anyone can be tempted to make slanderous comments about others.

Can you recall a time in which you made detracting remarks about someone?

What was your motive in doing so?

Why did you feel the need to diminish that person’s character in the eyes of another?

Were you speaking out of pain?

Did you envy their accomplishments?

**What is slander?**

Slandering is a diabolical act that God is not pleased with. When we attempt to defame others with our words, we are sowing evil seeds, for which we will surely reap the consequences.

“He who guards his mouth preserves his life,
*But* he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction” (Proverbs 13:3 NKJV).

1. It’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**16 “These six things the Lord hates**;
Indeed, seven are repulsive to Him:
**17**A proud look [the attitude that makes one overestimate oneself and discount others], a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood,
**18**A heart that creates wicked plans,
Feet that run swiftly to evil,
**19A false witness who breathes out lies [even half-truths],**And one who spreads discord (rumors) among brothers.”

**Proverbs 6:16-19 (AMP)**

1. It’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**31 “Let all** bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor [perpetual animosity, resentment, strife, fault-finding] and **slander be put away from you**, along with every kind of malice [all spitefulness, verbal abuse, malevolence].”

**Ephesians 4:31 (AMP)**

1. It’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“**The words of a whisperer *or* slanderer** are like dainty morsels *or* words of sport [to some, but to others are like **deadly wounds**]; and they go down into the innermost parts of the body [or of the victim’s nature].”

**Proverbs 26:22 (AMP)**

1. It \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“**A perverse man spreads strife,
And one who gossips separates intimate friends.”**

**Proverbs 16:28 (AMP)**

“**A false witness who breathes out lies [even half-truths],
And one who spreads discord (rumors) among brothers.”**

**Proverbs 6:19 (AMP)**

1. It’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“With his mouth the godless man **destroys his neighbor**,
But through knowledge *and* discernment the righteous will be rescued.”

**Proverbs 11:9 (AMP)**

1. It’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**10 “**Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom (dominion, reign) of our God, and the authority of His Christ have come; for the accuser of our [believing] brothers and sisters has been thrown down [at last], **he who accuses them *and* keeps bringing charges [of sinful behavior] against them before our God day and night.”**

**Revelation 12:10 (AMP)**

**What should we do?**

1. Stay \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“So **put aside** every trace of malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all **slander *and* hateful speech;”**

**I Peter 2:1 (AMP)**

1. Stop \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“Remind people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready *and* willing to do good, **2to slander *or* abuse no one**, to be kind *and* conciliatory and gentle, **showing unqualified consideration *and* courtesy toward everyone**.”

**Titus 3:1-2 (AMP)**

1. Stand \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**“Blessed [morally courageous and spiritually alive with life-joy in God’s goodness] are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil things** against you because of [your association with] Me.”

**Matthew 5:11 (AMP)**

1. Speak \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“**When we are slandered, we answer kindly**. We have become the scum of the Earth, the garbage of the world—right up to this moment.”

**I Corinthians 4:13 (NIV)**

**Why is this important?**

“**Lord, who may go and find refuge and shelter in your tabernacle up on your holy** hill?**2**Anyone who leads a blameless life and is truly sincere. **3Anyone who refuses to slander others, does not listen to gossip, never harms his neighbor**, **4**speaks out against sin, criticizes those committing it, commends the faithful followers of the Lord, keeps a promise even if it ruins him, **5**does not crush his debtors with high interest rates, and refuses to testify against the innocent despite the bribes offered him—such a man shall stand firm forever.”

**Psalms 15:1-5(TLB)**

Prayer

Lord, I refuse to be a slanderer. I will use Philippians 4:8 as a reminder of how I should handle my conversations. Therefore, whatever things are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, and of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy about someone, I comment only on these things. In Jesus's name, Amen!

**Answer Key:**

1. It’s hated by God.
2. It’s forbidden.
3. It’s deadly.
4. It divides friends.
5. It’s destructive.
6. It’s of the devil.

**What should we do?**

1. Stay away from it
2. Stop speaking it
3. Stand courageously
4. Speak kindly

**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 **Psalm 101:5 (AMP)**, God says, “**Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will silence**; The one who has a haughty look and a proud (arrogant) heart, I will not tolerate.”

What will happen to those who slander others? Also, according to this verse, what motivates slanderous behavior?

1. According to **I Peter 3:15-17 (AMP)**, how should we respond to slander?

**15 “**But in your hearts set Christ apart [as holy—acknowledging Him, giving Him first place in your lives] as Lord. Always be ready to give a [logical] defense to anyone who asks you to account for the hope *and* confident assurance [elicited by faith] that is within you, yet [do it] with gentleness and respect. **16And see to it that your conscience is entirely clear, so that every time you are slandered *or* falsely accused, those who attack *or* disparage your good behavior in Christ will be shamed** [by their own words]. **17**For it is better that you suffer [unjustly] for doing what is right, if that should be God’s will, than [to suffer justly] for doing wrong.”

1. In **Proverbs 30:10 (AMP**) Solomon warns, “Do not slander *or* malign a servant before his master [stay out of another’s personal life],
Or, he will curse you [for your interference], and you will be found guilty.” What steps should you take, if any, if you observed a co-worker slandering a boss?
2. Name one thing that you found beneficial in today’s lesson that you will apply to your life.