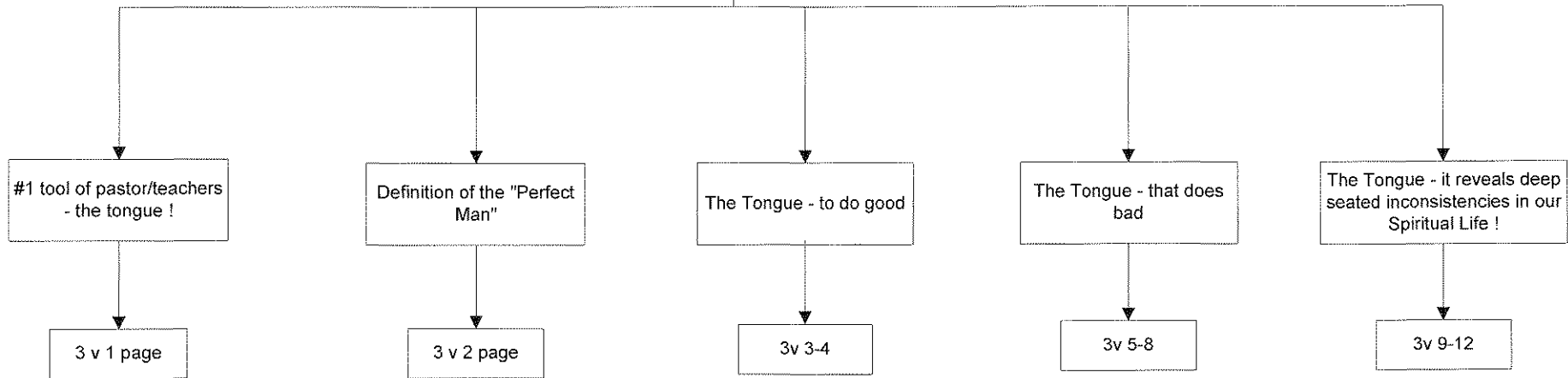


James 3
3:1-3:12

Taming the Tongue - In Ch. 2, James concluded that a Practical Christian love in relationships is the fruit of real faith. One way to show this love is in our speech -- So, James turns to a study of the tongue.....



James 3
3:1

Purpose of Pastor / Teachers

Prepare God's people for works of service

Teaching people all that Christ commanded

Purpose of Christ's coming was to preach

Ephesians 4:11

Matthew 28:18-20

Mark 1:38

Ephesians 4:11
11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,

Matthew 28:18-20
18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in [a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Mark 1:38
38 Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come."

Matthew 23:13
View commentary related to this passage
13 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.
[a] Footnotes:
Some manuscripts :
Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Therefore you will be punished more severely.

John 3:1-15 (Nicodemus)

Because of this responsibility, the Pastor / Teacher will be judged more strictly

Matt 23:13 (Pharisees)

Non Pastor / Teachers

Pastor / Teacher

Point

1. Come to church as you are - we must hear the preached Word!
2. Don't be overly impressed with any person, pastor or Teacher - - all stumble!

1. How can a Pastor / Teacher have pride when they will clearly incur a more strict judgement?

- No believer is perfect
- Perfection is not the goal of the Christian
- The goal of the believer is Maturity / Integrity
- A controlled tongue is not a sign of spiritual maturity, but a means of spiritual maturity - Motyer
- Christian maturity is reflected in the self control of our speech

The "Perfect Man"

There is no "perfect man", save for Christ!

v 2 - The perfect man is one who can always control his tongue.

"Perfect" then may mean "complete or mature".

Therefore, only the spiritually mature can control their tongues.

v 2 - If you can control your tongue, anything else in your body would be easy to control.

Meaning - you could control your whole being....

Psalm 39:1

I said, "I will watch my ways and keep my tongue from sin; I will put a muzzle on my mouth as long as the wicked are in my presence.

Matthew 12:33-35

33"Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. 34You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. 35The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.

Matthew 15:18-20

18But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' 19For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. 20These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.'

Isaiah's Commission

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

9 He said, "Go and tell this people: "Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving."

Romans 3:9-18

No One is Righteous (Paul proves all are sinners - - how? By their speech !!)

9What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. 10As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; 11there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. 12All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." 13"Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips." 14"Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." 15" Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16ruin and misery mark their ways, 17and the way of peace they do not know." 18" There is no fear of God before their eyes.

1 Peter 2:21-23

21To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 22"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." 23When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

Luke 23:33-34

33When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. 34Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

- A controlled tongue is not a sign of spiritual maturity, but a means of spiritual maturity - Motyer

- Christian maturity is reflected in the self control of our speech

Process

1. Person accepts Christ
2. HS provides a new heart
3. "From the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks"
4. v11 - Both fresh and salt water cannot come from the same spring

1 Peter 2:21-23
Luke 23:33-34

Jesus

Isaiah

Isaiah 6:1-9

James 3
3:3-4

The Tongue - to do good

v3 - Horses

v 4- Ships

1. The "Bit" lays on the horse's tongue and touches the horses mouth in 5 places
2. The "toughest" Bits actually cut the gums
3. A Bit can be held on a person's thumb
4. This small bit controls the :
 - mouth, which controls the.....
 - head, which controls the....entire 1500 lb. horse's body!

The tiny rudder controlling the MASSIVE ship

A small part called the tongue controls the Whole

- Control the tongue through:
- a GOOD HEART
 - PRAYER
 - a focused MIND
 - Meditation in the WORD

James 3

3:5-8 A1

The Tongue - that does bad

v5 - a small part of the body that makes great boasts

v6 - the tongue is a fire!

v6 - a world of evil among the parts of the body

v6 - corrupts the whole person

v6 - sets the whole course of his life on fire

v6 - its set on fire by "Gehenna" (Hell) itself

v8 - no man can tame the tongue, its a restless evil

v8 - its full of deadly poison

Proverbs 15:28

8 The heart of the righteous weighs its answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil.

Proverbs 16:27

27 A scoundrel plots evil, and his speech is like a scorching fire.

Proverbs 26:20

20 Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down.

Psalms 57:4

4 I am in the midst of lions; I lie among ravenous beasts—men whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords.

Psalms 52:2-4

2 Your tongue plots destruction; it is like a sharpened razor, you who practice deceit.

3 You love evil rather than good, falsehood rather than speaking the truth.
Selah

4 You love every harmful word, O you deceitful tongue!

Fire has an amazing and unique capacity to reproduce itself in an almost unlimited way as long as it has fuel to burn. (Water, for example, cannot multiply). Fire feeds on itself!

People are not able to be anything they want - we all cannot be a successful basketball, baseball or football player.

But we all are able to talk about ANY ISSUE - and how hurtful and evil we can be!

The tongue can be Satan's tool -

Psalms 55:21

21 His speech is smooth as butter, yet war is in his heart; his words are more soothing than oil, yet they are drawn swords.

"I am more deadly than the screaming shell from the howitzer. I win without killing. I tar down homes, break hearts and wreck lives. I travel on the wings of the wind. No innocence is strong enough to intimidate me, no purity pure enough to daunt me, I have no regard for truth, no respect for justice, no mercy for the defenseless. My victims are as numerous as the sands of the sea and often as innocent. I never forget and seldom forgive. My name is Gossip."

- Morgan Blake, Sportswriter, Atlanta Journal

Mark 7:20-23

20 He (Jesus) went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.' 21For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. 23All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.' "

Literally, Gehenna means "valley of Hinnom".

The "valley of Hinnom" is a deep gorge southwest of Jerusalem, where trash, garbage and the bodies of dead animals and executed criminals were dumped and continually burned. The location had originally been used by Canaanite and some Israelites to sacrifice children to the god named molech. When this practice was outlawed, it became the garbage dump that continually burned.

The Lord used "Gehenna" (Hell) to represent the eternal, never ending torment of Hell

1. No human being in his own power can tame the tongue

2. Those of God clearly struggle:

Psalms 141:3

3 Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.

The evil of the tongue:

Jesus' murder was based on a lie:

Matthew 26:57-60

57Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled. 58But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome.

59The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. 60But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward.

The deadly poison of the tongue:

Stephen's murder was based on lies:

Acts 6:8-15, 51-60

Stephen Seized

8Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. 9Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia. These men began to argue with Stephen, 10but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke. 11Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak words of blasphemy against Moses and against God." 12So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. 13They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. 14For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us." 15All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

51[Stephen speaking] "You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit! 52Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— 53you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it."

The Stoning of Stephen

54When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. 55But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56"Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

57At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, 58dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

James 3
3:9-12

The Tongue - it reveals deep seated inconsistencies in our Spiritual Life !

Peter

Matthew 16:15-17
vs.
Matthew 16:22-24 /
Luke 22:54-62

Matthew 16:15-17
15"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"
16Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
17Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.

Matthew 16:22-24
22Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"
23Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."
24Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me

Luke 22:54-62
54Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. 55But when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. 56A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him."
57But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said.
58A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." "Man, I am not!" Peter replied.
59About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean."
60Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed.
61The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." 62And he went outside and wept bitterly.

From the same tongue
v 9 - We praise our Father and curse man, made in the image of our Father
v10 - comes praise and cursing

Examples
v 11 - Can fresh and salt water come from the same spring?
v12 - can a fig tree produce olives?

Conclusion
Likewise, good words come from a good heart - bad words from a bad heart

And yet, both good and bad come from our tongues !

What inconsistency !!!!

James 3
3:1-3:12

Taming the Tongue

Control the tongue through PRAYER, a GOOD HEART, a RENEWED MIND and meditation on the WORD

PRAYER

HEART

MIND

Psalm 141:2-4
2 May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.
3 Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.
4 Let not my heart be drawn to what is evil, to take part in wicked deeds with men who are evildoers; let me not eat of their delicacies.

Psalm 19:14
14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Matthew 12:33-35
Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. 34 You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.

Romans 12:1-2
1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

The good Heart / The "Word"

The Heart

Luke 8:15
15 But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Matthew 15:18-19
18 But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

2 Corinthians 10:5
5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Matthew 13 - Parable of the Sower
Sower - Jesus / Seed - the Word / Soil - The heart of man / "Good" soil - The "good" heart
The man with the "Good Heart"
- A Believer in Jesus Christ by the Grace of God (**Ephesians 2:8** -For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God)
- His heart is prepared by the Holy Spirit and his heart is receptive
--The ultimate mark of the genuine believer, the good soil, is fruit-bearing. Spiritual fruit is the inevitable product of a spiritual life
- The fruit of the spirit is: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self control

"Their mouths become tunnels through which depravity exits their hearts" -
John MacArthur

Jeremiah 17:9
9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

Matthew 23:25-28
25 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean. 27 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. 28 In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

v 2 - If you can control your tongue, anything else in your body would be easy to control

Matthew 12:34
.....For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.

James 3
3:13

- The tongue - What proceeds from the mouth is a reflection of the HEART
- The heart - how does one know they have true Wisdom in their heart ????

A Look at Wisdom in our Hearts

1 Corinthians 2:12-14

12We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. 13This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. 14The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Source of Wisdom

Colossians 2:2-4

2My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.

Proverbs 2:6

6 For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Receiving Wisdom

James 1:5

5If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

Cost of Wisdom

Proverbs 4:7

7 Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.

Wisdom from ABOVE
(God-centered / Others-centered)
v13

Wisdom defined

Proverbs 9:10

10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding

James is saying Wisdom is the God given ability to see how in all our ways we may prove our Wisdom in action.

Evidences of Wisdom from Above in the Christian who truly has WISDOM

3v17:

- Pure - focused on God/ A "cleanness" b4 God
- Peaceable - seeking peace with people
- Gentle - considerate of others
- Reasonable - accommodating / submissive
- Full of mercy - generous / charitable
- Full of good fruits - generous / charitable
- Unwavering - Impartial/consistent
- Without hypocrisy - sincere

The problem is 99% of what we are taught or see (in other words - "The World") contradicts this message. Yet, the items above are evidence of Wisdom in the true Christian!!!!

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

18For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19For it is written:

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

20Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. 22Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

26Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the strong. 28He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29so that no one may boast before him. 30It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

Titus 2:11-14

11For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. 12It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

James 3
3:14--16

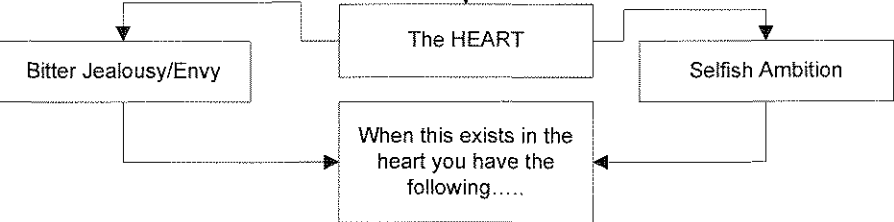
- The tongue - What proceeds from the mouth is a reflection of the HEART
 - The heart - how does one know they have a lack of Wisdom in their heart ????

A Look at a lack of Wisdom in our Hearts

James 1:17
 17Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

If a person professes saving faith in Jesus Christ and claims to have wisdom from God, but has a heart that is proud, arrogant and self centered and lives a life that is worldly, sensual and self serving, his claims to salvation are false. He is lying against the truth.

Wisdom from BELOW
 (Self-centered)
 v14



These are extremely difficult to determine:

Earthly - Restricted to things that man can theorize, discover and accomplish by himself. However, the wisest doctors, professionals may have tremendous earthly wisdom in their fields - that's not a bad thing !

Natural - Relates to the fallen, unredeemed man who is fully separated from God. (1 Cor 2:14). However, much wisdom not from the HS is still good!

Demonic - Satan is disguised as an "Angel of Light" (2 Cor 11:13-15). Would we have responded to Peter's defense of Christ with "Get behind me Satan" - no way !

Examples of disorder and every evil thing:
 anger, bitterness, resentment, lawsuits, divorce, racial, ethnic, social and economic divisions

Disorder and EVERY EVIL THING (v16) is a result of Wisdom from below
 (contrast with 1v17)
 The 3 great enemies of the Believer - the UNHOLY TRINITY (World, Flesh, Devil)



Addressing this wisdom from below

Earthly
 Romans 12:2

Natural
 1 Cor 6:18 / 2 Tim 2:22 / Genesis 39

Demonic
 James 4:7 / Matthew 4

Romans 12:2
 2Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

2 Timothy 2:22
 22Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

1 Corinthians 6:18
 18Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.

Genesis 39:6-10
 6 So he left in Joseph's care everything he had; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.
 Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, 7 and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"
 8 But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. 9 No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" 10 And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

James 4:7
 7Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Matthew 4 Jesus' testing by Satan:

Jesus:

4Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

7Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

10Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"