

**ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL**  
**INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE**

TOPIC:           **Controlling Our Tongue**

TEXT:            *James 3:1-12; Proverbs 15:4; 25:15.*

**Directions:** - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

**INTRODUCTION:** - Winston Churchill was known for his quick wit and sharp tongue. On one occasion, he was confronted by his archrival, Lady Astor. “Winston,” she said, “If I were your wife, I would put poison in your soup.” “Lady Astor,” he replied, “If I were your husband, I would drink it!” It’s easy to laugh at such comments-especially when they aren’t aimed at us. But the tongue is no laughing matter. We have all seen people utterly humiliated by a harsh word, or reduced to tears by a stinging rebuke. In this passage, James urges us to control this most uncontrollable part of our body.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What are/is the basic functions of our tongue? Explain in detail.
2. From the passage, James directs his first comments at teachers and aspiring teachers (vs. 1). What advice does he give them, and why?  
Why do you think teachers will be judged more strictly than others will?
3. Why does James assume that if we can control our tongues, we must be perfect (vs. 2)? Explain.
4. Do you also think of tongue as the most uncontrollable part of body?  
Why or why not? Discuss.
5. According to James, tongue is like a horse’s bit, a ship’s rudder, and a small spark (i.e. a very small bit of fire ) (vs. 3-5)? Discuss.  
Give examples of how our tiny tongue can direct the course of our life.
6. How can the tongue’s impact on people be similar to a fire (vs. 6), a wild animal (v. 7-8), and a deadly poison (vs. 8)? Discuss.
7. Can a person’s life be destroyed by words of his/her mouth? Discuss.
8. If “no man can tame the tongue” (vs.8), what hope do we have of ever controlling that part of our body? Discuss.
9. How does the tongue violate the laws of nature (vs. 9-12)? Give Biblical examples.
10. How should the fact that people are made in God’s likeness (vs. 9) affect the way we speak to them? Explain.
11. James is very pessimistic, (i.e. has negative feeling) or perhaps realistic, about the tongue. In light of his pessimism, what advice does he give to *the “wise and the understanding”* (vs. 13)? Why are our deeds a better gauge of wisdom than our words?  
Discuss.
12. Can anyone or anything help us to put out the fire in your tongue, to tame that which is untameable, so that our speech can be appropriate for someone created in God’s likeness? If yes, what and how?

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TOPIC:           **Controlling Our Desires**

TEXT:            *James 4:1-10*

**Directions:** - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

**INTRODUCTION:** -

Within the heart of every person lurk terrible passions and desires. Scripture tells us that “*the heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure*” (Jeremiah 17:9). James confronts this dark side of our nature in chapter 4 of his letter and urges us to resist its evil influences.

**QUESTIONS**

1. In what situations do you tend to get angry?
2. According to James, what causes fights and quarrels among us (vs. 1-2)?
3. James speaks of desires that battle within us (vs. 1-2). What kinds of desires might lead people to covet and quarrel or even fight and kill?
4. Why do we often fail to get what we so intensely desire (vs. 2-3)?
5. Is it wrong to ask God for things that bring us pleasure? Explain.
6. What does it mean to be “*a friend of the world*” (vs. 4)?
7. Why is friendship with the world a form of spiritual adultery (vs. 4)?
8. Why is friendship with the world also a form of hatred and rebellion against God?
9. In what ways are you tempted to flirt with or even have an affair with the world?
10. What Ten Commandments does James give us for receiving God’s grace (vs. 7-10)? What is our spiritual state before and after obeying these commands?
11. What worldly desire do most people struggle with most? What about you as a Christian, or don’t you have any?
12. Humble yourself before the Lord. Draw near to Him in prayer. Ask Him for grace to purify your motives and control your desires. What other steps can we take to overcome worldly desires?

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TOPIC:           **Controlling Our Body**

TEXT:            1Corinthians 6:12-20

**Directions:** - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

**INTRODUCTION:** - Mae West was once told by an admirer, “*Goodness, what big diamonds!*” West replied, “*Goodness had nothing to do with it.*” Sexual sins have always been fashionable and, for some, even a matter of pride. Yet “*free sex*” has never been without cost. In our day, the AIDS epidemic, the horrifying abortion rate, and the agony of single parent have given renewed force to the Bible’s plea for sexual purity. In 1Corinthians 6 Paul urges each of us to control our body.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Do you think **Christians** tend to be more sexually pure than non-Christians are? Explain. References: Matthew 5:27; John 16:13.
2. Paul begins by countering those who say, “*Everything is permissible for me.*” What do you have to say to support Paul in his view? *Satan offers sinful pleasures but always hid the price tag.* Reference: Gen. 3:4-5.  
Even if something is “*permissible.*” why might we still refrain from doing it (vs.12-13)?  
References: Daniel 2:11-15.
4. What examples can you give of “*permissible*” actions that may not be beneficial for you or might even be enslaving apart from sexual immorality? References: Proverbs. 6:4; 31:4-6; Isaiah.5:11.
5. Why should our spiritual union with Christ make sexual immorality unthinkable or something to be avoided completely (vs. 15-17)? Reference: - Romans 8:5-10.
6. In Corinth, sexual immorality often involved temple prostitutes. What sexual temptations are we likely to encounter today?
7. Paul urges us to “*flee from sexual immorality*” (vs.18). Why is a swift retreat or withdrawal usually better than rationalising or finding excuses when facing temptation?
8. How can we explain Paul’s statement that our body is “*a temple of the Holy Spirit*” or what does it mean to you (vs.18-20)?
9. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked... (Gal. 6:7). Can a Christian be found guilty of sexual immorality?
10. How would you advise a believer friend who is still a slave to this ugly sin of sexual immorality? If such a person is in your congregation, how do you think the Church leadership should treat him/her?

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TOPIC:           **Controlling Our Appetites**

TEXTS:           *Proverbs 23:20-21, 29-35; 31:4-7.*

**Directions:** - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

**INTRODUCTION:** - Forbidden fruit always looks sweetest-especially when you're on a diet! You know how it goes. You're home alone, and the urge to eat seizes you. You fight it off, trying to distract yourself by reading a magazine. You "*accidentally*" flip to the kitchen, and your mouth begins to water. Feeling a twinge of guilt, you reassure yourself that reading aren't fattening or increasing one's weight. But as you decide to allow yourself at bedtime one big bowl of Semolina, Potato chips or Rice-after all, how much damage can these foods do. Next thing you know, the stomach is empty but it is as big as a giant balloon! Whether it is food, alcohol, or other drugs-controlling our appetites is never easy. Yet the book of Proverbs motivates us to master this important are of our lives.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What do you find ***hardest*** about dieting?
2. What does '***alcoholism and gluttony i.e. excessive eating***' has in common?
3. It is easy to imagine how a "***drunkard***" could become poor (vs.21). ***But how could excessive eating or eating when not necessary lead to poverty?***
4. Why do you think people who eat or drink too much rarely view themselves as '***an addict***'?
5. In what other ways are alcoholic beverages, such as wine, both '***alluring and deceptive***' Read Proverbs. 23:31-32?
6. Based on your experience or that of someone you know, how accurate is the proverb's description of what it is like to be drunk (vs. 33-35)? ***Can you analyse some of the possible consequences of eating too much and drinking alcohol?***
7. Read 2Timothy 3:1-5. To what extent do the proverb's warnings against "***wine***" apply to '***other forms of addictive behaviour***'?
8. When it comes to our appetites, why does our behaviour either show discernment or bring disgrace to us? *Proverbs. 23:29-35.*
9. As a believer, would you support the idea of entertaining unbeliever friends with alcohol or not? ***If not, then tell us your reasons.***
10. In what way do you think that an uncontrollable appetites can have '***negative effect on our relationship with people and of course with the Church where we fellowship***'?
11. In '***what ways***' or by '***what means***' do you think we can control our appetites?

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TOPIC:       **Controlling Our Finances**

TEXTS:       *1Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19.*

**Directions:** - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

**INTRODUCTION:** - A news paper magazine described how the Rockefellers made their fortune. Mrs Rockefeller found she could save thousands of dollars each year by buying items she bought on sale, the more money she saved. During the Depression, she was forced to shop seven days a week just to make ends meet!

For most of us, spending and saving don't work quite that way. We struggle to control our spending, and our savings and giving are often far less than they should be. In 1Timothy 6 Paul helps us gain a biblical perspective on our finances.

**QUESTIONS**

1. As most people make more money, why do you think they often increase their '***standard of living, the number of friends and involvement in worldly activities***'?
2. Paul tells us to be content with food and clothing (vs.8). What other material things do we often feel we need to be content? ***In what ways does our culture make it difficult to be content without those items?***
3. Paul reminds us that we brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out of it (vs. 7). ***How should these facts affect our attitude toward possessions?***
4. What examples can you give of the kinds of '***foolish and harmful desires, evils, and grieves***' Paul has in mind?
5. ***What dangers await those who love money and those who want to get rich at all cost*** (vv.9-10; 1Tim. 6:10; Proverbs. 13:11; Ecclesiastes. 5:10; Matt. 6:24; 27:3-6; Heb.13: 5).
6. If the pursuit of riches is really so dangerous, why do you think so many people have made it their '***primary goal***' in life?
7. Instead of pursuing wealth, what does Paul urge Timothy and us to pursue (vs.11; Matthew 6:33)? ***Why are these qualities more valuable than riches?***
8. Read Proverbs 23:4-5, 28:20; Psalm 127:1-2; Matthew 16:26. ***What do you think should be the attitude of a believer towards riches?***
9. Read verses 17-19 and Luke12: 13-21; Jer.9: 23-24. ***How are those who are already rich to view themselves and their wealth?***
10. If we put our hope in God rather than riches, does that mean we must live austere (***in austerity***), joyless lives (vs.17)? Explain.
11. ***How can we use our material wealth to gain true riches and treasure?***  
Please read 1Timothy 6:17-19; Mal. 3:8-12).

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TOPIC:       **Clothing Ourselves with Christ**

TEXT:         Romans 13:11-14

**Directions:** - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

**INTRODUCTION:** - King Henry II, in order to reduce the growing power of the church, had a brilliant plan. He decided to nominate his good friend and chancellor, Thomas Beckett, to be archbishop of Canterbury. With Beckett as his puppet, Henry would control both church and state-or so he thought. As the day approached for Beckett's consecration, a change came over him. When he clothed himself in the robes of the archbishop, he experienced an inner transformation. He resolved that he would not be archbishop in appearance only, but in fact-a decision that latter cost him his life. In Romans 13 Paul urges us to clothe ourselves with Christ, to resolve to be Christians not only in appearance but in the innermost parts of our being.

**QUESTIONS**

1. How accurate or correct is the saying, *'The clothes make the man'*?
2. Read Gal. 5:19-23. What do night and day, darkness and light stand for?
3. What words does Paul use to emphasise the nearness of Christ's return (vs.11)? Read Matthew 24:10-13. To what extent can we say that this already manifesting in the church?
4. If Paul were writing today, do you think his list of deeds would be the same or different? Also read 2Timothy 3:1-5.
5. Why do you think people are more inclined to do such deeds in the darkness rather than in the light? What do you think you can do as an individual to help in this case?
6. What does it mean to *'clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ'* (vs.14)? Paul also speaks of our putting on *'the armour of light'* (vs.12). What does that idea implies to you as a member of this Fellowship?
7. How does the dawning Christ's return motivate us to *'dress'* differently than we might otherwise? Give some practical illustrations  
If Paul had made a list of Christ-like clothes to put on, what other things might that list have included (*see, for example, vv. 8-10 and Gal. 5:22-23*)?
8. Which items in that list are most absent in your Church? What suggestion would you likely give to the leadership of the Church, if asked to suggest way out?

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TOPIC:     **The Spirit of Gentleness**

TEXT:     Galatians 5:22-23; Titus 3:1-2.

**Directions:** - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

**INTRODUCTION:** Gentleness is God's enduring quality in the centuries of His dealing with man. The gentleness of God has drawn man to Him with bonds of love stronger than steel. This gentleness is different from the natural gentleness which is exclusively enjoyed by loved ones. Gentleness is part of the fruit of the spirit enjoyed by all our friends as well as our enemies, persecutors, scoffers, those who scorn us and all who speak evil against us. Our gentleness should be toward everybody in every place and at all times. "And the servants of the Lord must strive, but must be gentle unto all men. *Gentleness is loving, accommodating, appreciating, caring and correcting a friend, child or subordinate in a firm manner.*

**QUESTIONS**

1. Who are the people you are to show gentleness and why?
2. Who are the people towards who you should be aggressive and why?
3. Explain how gentleness made manifest between brethren in the Church.
4. What if your gentleness is taken for granted and you are being taken to be foolish, what do you think you should do as a believer?
5. How would you relate gentleness of the Church Leaders to the need for Discipline in the Church? How '*enough is enough*' when it comes to Discipline in the Church?
6. What are the necessary ingredients to make one a gentleperson?
7. Carefully go through the following scriptures one after the other and examine the area where self-control is necessary. (a) Proverbs 23:1-3 (b) Proverbs 25:16 (c) 1Timothy 2:9 (d) Eph. 5:16. Give reasons.
8. Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. Mention 9 things in which a man must exercise self-control. Give reasons to each.

