

TEACHING, TALKING AND OUR NEED FOR GRACE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

JAMES 3:1-2

- 1 When James says, “Not many of you should become teachers...” does he mean to discourage people from teaching God’s word? Why or why not? Don’t forget what the rest of the Bible says. (See Number 11:26-29, 1 Cor. 9:16, 1 Tim 3:1)

♥ James’ warning applies to both official and unofficial teachers of God’s word. In what ways is his warning applicable or convicting to you?

📖 What are some characteristics that should mark teachers of God’s Word? (See Acts 20:26, Heb 13:17, 2 Tim 2:15)

📖 Read Jesus’ indictment of the Rabbis in his day in Matt. 23:1-12. What do we learn about their aspirations to be teachers? Which of those temptations are you most tempted in?

- 2 Explain why there is so great a potential for damage in the case of teachers. What are some of the bad fruits that can come from a bad teacher or preacher of God’s word? (Think bad theology as in Titus 1:9-16, Col. 2:16-23)

💡 Many of our friends and coworkers have grown resentful or untrusting of all Christian leaders because of experiences with bad teachers or preachers (even false religion). How can you help them grow in learning to trust healthy Christian leaders?

- 3 Meditate on the following quote, “It is impossible to teach or preach anything that I don’t desperately need myself.” - Paul Tripp. How should that thought shape our preparation to share God’s word in any context? (See Ps 139:1-4, 23-24, 1 Tim 4:16, Col. 3:16)

- 4 According to Ecclesiastes 12:1-7, age causes our desires to begin to fade and weaken (for example - the passion for life, food, advancement, power, sexual desires, etc).

⚙️ In what ways is this true as we grow older? Which temptations grow weaker as we grow older?

⚙️ In what ways is this not true of our tongues? What temptations of the tongue grow stronger as we grow older?

