

7. For various reasons, by a guilt complex, by a desire to publicly portray spirituality, or an effort to take the spiritual high ground, the antagonist uses his tongue to arrogate Christ and God as witnesses on his behalf.
8. This is hypocrisy of the most dangerous order. One must not use God to support sin. Use of the tongue to criticize a fellow believer is an overt, verbal sin. The latter is bad enough; the former is blasphemous.
9. When aggrandizing his comments by implying support by God and Christ is a dangerous game to play. For example, take this tactic and combine it with Matthew 7:1–2 and the confluence of divine wrath is sure to follow.
10. James wants to impose quietus on that tactic and get back to the central issue of his commentary which begins with the phrase, “and with it, namely the tongue,” or “and by means of the tongue.”
11. It is by means of the tongue that reversionists “curse men.” The verb “curse” is the customary present middle indicative of **καταράομαι** (*kataráomai*): “to curse or execrate; to wish anyone evil or ruin.”
12. James uses the verb, *kataráomai*, to describe the motivation of this reversionist. The verb is generally translated “curse,” but the context demands a more precise definition which is supplied by the word “execrate.” Here’s are extended definitions of the word:
 - Execrate. To denounce evil against, or to imprecate evil on; hence, to detest utterly; to abhor; to abominate.²**
 - Execrate. To imprecate evil upon; hence to detest utterly; to abhor. Execrate implies intense loathing and, usually, a fury of passion.³**
 - Execrate. To imprecate evil upon (as an expression of hatred); to express or feel intense loathing or abhorrence for; utter detestation.⁴**
13. *Kataráomai* is also defined as a curse, but the dictionary definitions noted above show that execrate carries a more intense application to the verb. Its customary present tense indicates that this execration regularly occurs or is part of an ongoing state that occurs regularly.
14. The impact of this verb is further intensified by the middle voice indicating that the person’s volition employs this tactic consistently.

² Noah Webster, *An American Dictionary of the English Language*, vol. 1 (1828), s.v. “execrate.”

³ *Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary*, 2d ed. (1953), s.v. “execrate.”

⁴ *The Oxford English Dictionary* (1971), s.v. “execrate.”



15. The tongue is simply an organ in the body. It has several functions, one of which is the enunciation of ideas fed to it by the thought processes contained in the believer's stream of consciousness.
16. The tongue is being scolded by James, but his Letter makes it clear that the organ is just the means of communicating the thoughts and ideas contained in a person's soul.
17. Therefore, as we have noted earlier, "The medium is the message." The medium in context is the tongue. What it communicates has the power to persuade or dissuade.
18. Either way, the tongue is only the medium by which the soul is enabled to communicate its ideas to others.
19. Loosely using the vocabulary of herpetology as an example, the soul contains a person's inventory of ideas, beliefs, and attitudes. The volition contains the venom sacs that expectorates through their fangs the soul's poison, and the tongue communicates by its hiss what warns of incoming ordinance.
20. Consequently, it is the tongue that receives the condemnation because it is the medium of communication. It was Marshall McLuhan who cleverly characterized the emerging power of electronic media in the early 1960s:

Marshall McLuhan. Canadian communications theorist and educator, whose aphorism "the medium is the message" summarized his view of the potent influence of television, computers, and other electronic disseminators of information in shaping styles of thinking and thought, whether in sociology, art, science, or religion.⁵

NOTE: Television, including its spinoffs, is the most effective medium for electronic influence because it presents video images of a person who, accompanied by his audio commentary, addresses his audience face-to-face. The cosmic believer has always had this same power because his thoughts are expressed by the use of the tongue while his personal presence is accompanied by the visual nuances of facial expressions, body language, and eye contact.

What a person says is the expression of what is contained in the stream of consciousness of his soul which remains dormant until volition makes the decision to express these thoughts verbally to others. Therefore, the tongue becomes the most effective and powerful medium for a message.

⁵ McLuhan, (Herbert) Marshall, in *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica: Micropaedia* (2010), 7:643.

21. The verse continues with a nod to the Royal Law which is being completely ignored by the believer who uses his tongue to execrate others who, whether being guilty or innocent, is not the issue.
22. The targets of these execrations are mentioned next with the perfect active participle of **γίνομαι (gínomai)**: “have come into being.” In other words, they are individual Homo sapiens with the same essence of soul as everyone else: **(1)** self-consciousness, **(2)** mentality, **(3)** volition, and **(4)** conscience.
23. The enemy in opposition to this essence is the propaganda disseminated by the sin nature’s agent provocateurs which are deployed by its lust patterns.
24. The essence of the soul is intended by God to emulate the system of thought He possesses. The person in context speaks with a forked tongue, just as a snake possesses by nature. From the source of one fork he praises the Lord and the Father while from the other fork he execrates mankind.
25. Because of reversionism, he expresses sins of the tongue; he ejects poison from his venom sacs first with blasphemous expressions of blessings to God but with execrations of cursing toward his fellowman.
26. Elsewhere in James’s letter he uses the term “double -minded” in:

James 1:7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

v. 8 being a double-minded [**δίψυχος (dípsuchos)**⁶] man, unstable in all his ways.

James 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, you double-minded. (NASB)

27. Timothy uses a similar expression in:

1 Timothy 3:8a Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued [**δίλογος (dílogos)**: “deceitful in one’s words”] ... (NASB)

28. The English language has several words that describe the mentality of the individual described by James. The one which correlates best with **dípsuchos**, “double-minded, and **dílogos**, “double-tongued,” is, “two-faced” which has the following synonyms: deceitful, hypocritical, backstabbing, duplicitous, and perfidious.”⁷

⁶ “δίψυχος. Such a person suffers from divided loyalties. On the one hand, he wishes to maintain a religious confession and desires the presence of God in his life; on the other hand, he loves the ways of the world and prefers to live according to its mores and ethics” (Spiros Zodhiates, ed., *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, rev. ed. [Chattanooga: AMG Publishers, 1993], 473).

⁷ *Oxford American Writer’s Thesaurus*, 3d ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012), s.v. “two-faced.”



29. These expressions are dichotomous since a believer should never be involved in practicing these mutually divergent acts. This exposes the person's irrational behavior that is common among those whose mentality has declined to the stage of *dipsuchos* or *dilogos*.
30. This is also treachery since James points out in James 3:9 that such types were "made in the *likeness* of God" in the NASB and NIV. The KJV uses the word *similitude*, while the NET employs *image*. The Greek word is the noun, **ὁμοίωσις** (*homíōsis*) and is defined as follows:

**ὁμοίωσις means a. "making similar or like,"
b. "being like," c. "comparison."**

In the LXX [Septuagint] it is mostly used in the sense of "similarity," especially Genesis 1:26. The word does not mean "image"; there is a fundamental distinction from εἰκών [eikón], which presupposes an original from which there is derivation, whereas ὁμοίωσις, simply denotes the likeness, which has not arisen by derivation.

The only New Testament instance is at James 3:9, where, on the basis of Genesis 1:26 it is said: "... ὁμοίωσιν θεοῦ γεγονότας [according to the image of God]."⁸

31. Interestingly, the best English noun to distinguish the association the human being has with God is "similitude":

Similitude. 1. A person resembling, or having a likeness of, some other person. Bearing a relation to something moral of which it is the similitude and type. 4. The quality or state of being like; resemblance, similarity, likeness.⁹

James 3:9 By means of the tongue we praise the Lord, and our Father; and by means of this tongue we keep on execrating mankind, having come into being according to the similitude of God; (EXT)

James 3:10 from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. (NASB)

⁸ Johannes Schneider, "ὁμοίωσις," in *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, ed. Gerhard Friedrich, trans. and ed. Geoffrey W. Bromiley (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1967), 5:190.

⁹ *The Oxford English Dictionary* (1971), s.v. "Similitude."

