

Body Parts
Making Sure That We Honor God with All of Us



Body Parts

- *Our Ears*
- *Our Eyes*
- *Our Tongues*
- *Our Hands*
- *Our Feet*
- *Our Hearts*



Our Tongues

- How important are our tongues—i.e.; the words that our lips and mouths form?

“To speak without thinking is to shoot without aiming.”

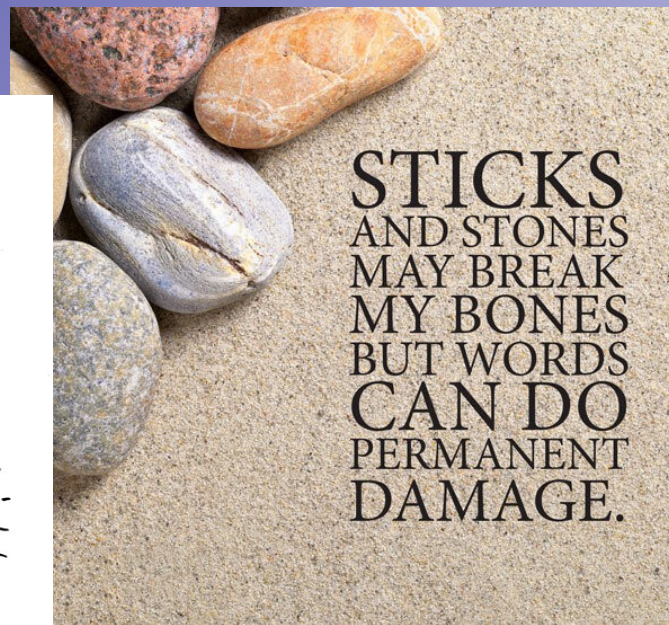
(Charlie Chan)



Our Tongues

- How important are our tongues—i.e.; the words that our lips and mouths form?
 - Think about a couple of familiar aphorisms—
 - “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me.”
 - Do you agree with that? Why or why not?
 - There have been a ton of “spin-off” aphorisms refuting this nursery rhyme...
 - What are people trying to get at here—and do you agree with them?
 - How carefully do you and I watch our words, then, if they're really that powerful?

STICKS and STONES
may BREAK my BONES
but WORDS
will INFECT my MIND.



STICKS
AND STONES
MAY BREAK
MY BONES
BUT WORDS
CAN DO
PERMANENT
DAMAGE.

Sticks and stones
may break bones,
but words can
shatter souls.
Words matter.
Choose wisely.

Our Tongues

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 - Do you agree with that? Why or why not?
 - There have been a ton of “spin-off” aphorisms refuting this nursery rhyme...
 - How can words “infect my mind”?

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☺☺☺
☠☠☠
@#!%.



Our Tongues



Funky little teaching moment...

- Are you familiar with the “Mandela Effect”?
 - It's the idea that we create a *mental* “reality” by our shared stories that supersedes our *actual* reality

(The name of concept idea comes from how many people were certain—*absolutely certain*—that Nelson Mandela died as a political prisoner in South Africa in the 80s when the **T**ruth is that he survived his imprisonment to later be elected the first black President of South Africa in 1994 and finally passed away in 2013)

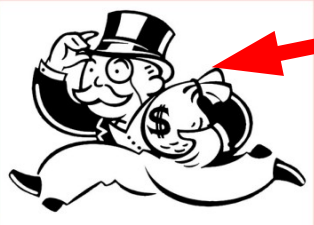


Our Tongues



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 - It’s the idea that we create a *mental* “reality” by our shared stories that supersedes our *actual* reality
 - So people share a mental “social reality” when we talk about what we think that we know—and then that shared mental “social reality” *becomes* reality to us
 - Which of these is the *correct* logo?
 - What’s wrong with *this* picture?



Our Tongues

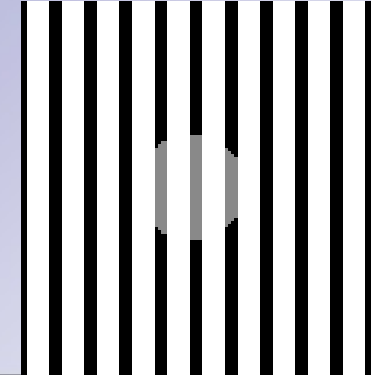


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 - Which of these is the *correct* logo?
 - What's wrong with *this* picture?
 - How does all of this correlate to what we've already talked about in this class?

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 - So people share a mental “social reality” when we talk about what we think that we know—and then that shared mental “social reality” *becomes* reality to us
 - That's no big deal when you're talking about the ~~Berenstein~~ **Berenstain** Bears
 - But what about when it affects our perceptions of really *important* issues, or if it takes on a *destructive* force of its own?



The Berenstain Bears



The Berenstain Bears

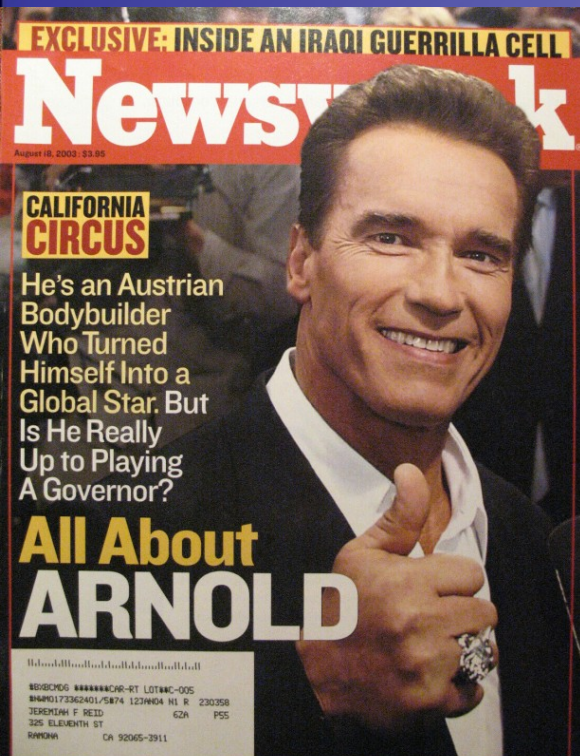


Our Tongues



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 - In August of 2003, *Newsweek* printed an article about prostitution and human trafficking in Minnesota's Mall of America
 - For years, people have been quoting and re-quoting that article—and politicians, law enforcement professionals, and even ministry leaders have been using its statistics to warn people about the danger
 - But *Newsweek* was forced within a few months to issue a retraction, since the original article was based on unsubstantiated hearsay from a single, biased source
- (in point of fact, *no* arrests—much less convictions—have ever been made for prostitution or human trafficking in the Mall of America)



Our Tongues



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 - But *Newsweek* was forced within a few months to issue a retraction, since the original article was based on unsubstantiated hearsay from a single, biased source
 - But the problem is that *no one cared about the retraction*—people liked the *shared* “reality” of the false story more than they liked the actual reality of what really happened
 - The words had taken on a life of their own, and there was no taking them back



Our Tongues



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 - But *Newsweek* was forced within a few months to issue a retraction...
 - So how much damage has been done to Mall of America's reputation or to the legitimacy of the real dangers of actual human trafficking because of people spreading—and others then *re*-spreading—this demonstrably false information for nearly two decades?
 - Don't even get me going on “oft-repeated and thus believed” stories about “Bloody Mary” appearing in bathroom mirrors or an angry John Wayne being held back by six stagehands at the Academy Awards...



Our Tongues

- How important are our tongues—i.e.; the words that our lips and mouths form?
 - Think about a couple of familiar aphorisms—
 - “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me.”
 - “A slip of the foot you may soon recover, but a slip of the tongue you may never get over.” (*Ben Franklin*)
 - Do you agree with that? Why or why not?
 - Can you think of any Bible verses that would suggest that sort of thing?
 - “The tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.” (*James 3:5*)
 - What is James trying to get at here?
 - Do you agree? Why or why not?
 - How carefully do you and I watch our words, then, if they’re really that powerful?



Our Tongues

- Let's look at some Biblical texts on our tongues (and our words)—the good *and* bad
 - Please read Psalm 16:7-9
 - How does hearing from the LORD lead David to set his focus on the LORD and change his perceptions?
 - And then how does that change in perception affect his mental well-being?
 - And how does David then naturally express that mental well-being?
 - How did the prophet Isaiah say something similar back in Isaiah 50:4?
 - What does that suggest that—if we really do think that we *know* stuff—we should use our tongues and words?



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 - And then how does that change in perception affect his mental well-being?
 - And how does David then naturally express that mental well-being?
 - How did the prophet Isaiah say something similar back in Isaiah 50:4?
 - How does Jesus express that concept—both positively and negatively—in Luke 6:43?
 - How does Jesus apply that more fully—both positively and negatively—in Matthew 12:35-37?
 - If all of this is **I** true, then how should we apply it?

