

## We Own Our Own Lips

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Listen to the boast of the ungodly (Psalm 12):

**We will triumph with our tongues;  
we own our lips – who is our master?**

Just prior to this boasting, David described the one who “lies to his neighbor” through flattery and deception. We are surrounded by the same kind of flattery and deception in our present-day society. It breeds mistrust and shallow relationships.

Curiously, it is empty speech, lies, and boasts that King David uses to describe the ungodly and faithless person.

Jesus said to let “Yes” be “Yes” and let “No” be “No.” This was in response to the way in which the people would make a claim or a promise. To swear by the temple was a strong vow. But to swear by the ‘gold’ in the temple was even stronger. Jesus taught his followers speak truth with no disclaimers or qualification or hidden meanings.

Have you ever rationalized a ‘white lie’ in order to avoid the embarrassing truth? Some call it ‘tact’ (though that is a gross misunderstanding). We own our own lips. Aren’t we clever?

Have you ever greeted another with words of warmth and interest, yet the greetings were empty. We own our own lips. Aren’t we clever?

Have you ever twisted the truth to keep someone from getting hurt? It actually made things go better! We own our own lips. Aren’t we clever?

Have you ever made a bold claim or promise without really thinking about whether you could keep your promise? People are impressed and perhaps even encouraged. We own our own lips. Aren’t we clever?

Have you ever told the truth, but in such a way as to intentionally give yourself an advantage? We own our own lips. Aren’t we clever?

It wasn’t *adultery*; it was an *affair*. She isn’t *rebellious*; she has a *free spirit*. I am not being *deceptive*; it is a *gentler way* to say things. We own our own lips. Aren’t we clever?

Have you ever showered someone with compliments...so *you* would appear encouraging? Flattery gets you everywhere. We own our own lips. Aren’t we clever?

The joke was a little ‘shady,’ but it was soooo funny. We own our own lips. Aren’t we clever?

Have you ever used a word that rhymes with an obscene word or that only ‘suggested’ something of a sexual nature? We own our own lips. Aren’t we clever?

We live in a country that guarantees ‘Free speech.’ It is our first amendment right. We own our own lips. Aren’t we clever?

Churches have argued over logic and intellectual conclusions. Christians have split hairs wrangling over words; and churches split. We own our own lips. Aren’t we clever?

Help, Lord, for the godly are no more;  
the faithful have vanished from among  
men. Everyone lies to his neighbor;  
their flattering lips speak with deception.  
May the Lord cut off all flattering lips  
and every boastful tongue that says,  
“We will triumph with our tongues;  
we own our lips – who is our master?”

Psalm 12:1-4 (NASB)

**The Lord is our Master.  
Be truthful or be quiet!**

Mark Stinnett