

WATCH YOUR MOUTH

My focus with this teaching is foul language, profanity, cursing or cussing as we call it today. We are warned in the Bible not to use unwholesome talk.

Colossians 3:8 - But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

Union with Christ requires a decisive break with the practices that belonged to the old life. Paul portrays sin as soiled clothing that must be removed, not managed or excused. The command is immediate because believers have died with Christ and have been raised to walk in newness of life

The NLT calls filthy communication here, dirty language. Obscene, abusive, degrading, and corrupt speech belongs to the former manner of life. Right along with foul language is dirty jokes and obscene things. A Christian has no business listening to that stuff or sharing it.

Words reveal the condition of the heart and can either wound others or give grace to those who hear. A renewed heart learns to speak what is pure, truthful, necessary, and helpful.

Eph.5:1-4 - Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

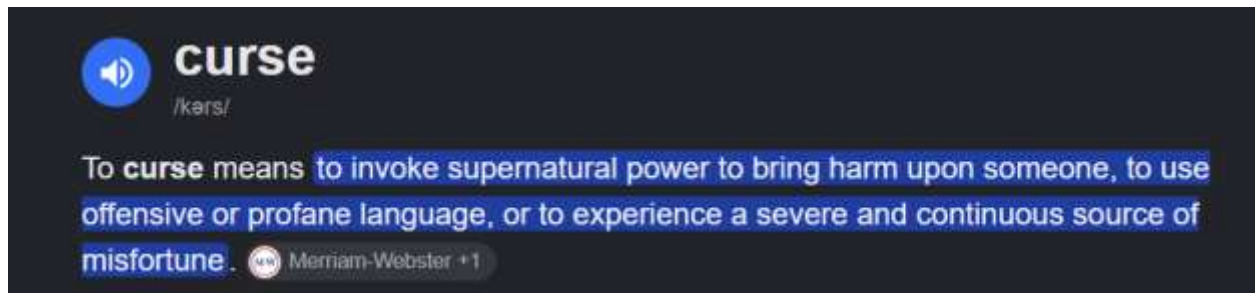
Such sins have no place among God's people. Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes have no business in a Christian's life. We are encouraged to focus on giving thanks to God and follow after the example Christ has given us.

There was a time when our society frowned on the use of cuss words. It wasn't until the last few years that I've now noticed the morning news is allowing cussing to be broadcast. President Trump cusses, the leader of the whole country. What

an example he is. Back in the day, men did not cuss around ladies but that doesn't seem to matter anymore. Today anything goes and the more the merrier. This is satan's world and it certainly is mimicking his nasty behavior.

Before we had Kennedy, Scott and I used to cuss, we had potty mouths. So our words were foul words, curse words, profane words etc. In America, we usually call it cursing but we are using that term not in the sense of pronouncing a curse over someone although it can be that also. When someone says things like (blank) you or you can go to hell. Things like that are actually curses and of course there are much deeper curses that can be spoken over or placed on an unsaved person's life by actual witches and those that purposely practice those things. The way to keep yourself clear of that is to live a righteous, obedient life to Christ and stay covered in His blood.

The word curse today has three meanings, to use foul language or to pronounce a curse on someone or acknowledging something to be cursed.



Merriam Webster - Curse – To curse means to invoke supernatural power to bring harm upon someone, to use offensive or profane language, or to experience a severe and continuous source of misfortune. So we see the definition today can be foul language as well as placing a curse on someone or recognizing someone or something as being cursed.

I think it is interesting looking in the 1838 Noah Webster dictionary under curse, there was nothing mentioned about filthy, foul, profane or just bad language in general. The word curse there only meant a curse placed on someone or something that was cursed. Sometimes in Scripture the word curse is poorly translated for rude and disrespectful or hateful speech.

To curse or use profane language is to use bad language, swear words, or obscene oaths out of anger or frustration.

Some synonyms of curse as a verb are: swear, blaspheme, damn, jinx, hex imprecate. As a noun they are: oath, profanity, malediction, hex, jinx, bane and scourge.

Let's look at an instance where Peter cursed when he was denying Jesus.

Matt.26:73-74 - And after a while came unto *him* they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art *one* of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and to swear, *saying*, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.

New Living Translation

Peter swore, "A curse on me if I'm lying—I don't know the man!" And immediately the rooster crowed.

NLT – Peter swore, "A curse on me if I'm lying – I don't know the man!" And immediately the rooster crowed.

I don't think it is really known exactly what Peter said because it isn't recorded in the King James. But we do know that Peter did not use modern day profanity when he was cursing. He was likely pronouncing a curse over himself or calling down divine judgment like people do today when they say "may God strike me dead if I'm lying." He was really trying to make a strong point that he did not know Jesus. He was so torn up about this as soon as he heard the rooster crow and later we see that Jesus absolved him of this horrible sin. **(John 21:15-17)** He was able to be forgiven because he was still alive. Be sure if you deny Jesus and you die, that's it, there is no forgiveness for that in the afterlife.

When you get baptized into the Holy Spirit you will be made aware of your potty mouth and filthy language. The Holy Spirit is God and He will begin to make you feel bad every time you say nasty, filthy and unwholesome words and things of that nature. He will begin to clean up your language. You won't say certain words anymore.

When we had Kennedy we stopped cussing. We also stopped saying words like stupid and words that are just rude words. We stopped saying things like that's retarded. I try not to call anyone idiots or fools because that's in Scripture.

Matthew 5:22 – (Jesus speaking here) But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

I feel like the word RACA is a Mandela Effect. But it means empty headed, brainless or worthless. Using words like fool, idiot or worthless could have been taken before the Sanhedrin, Israel's highest judicial council. Look at how far we've come today where these words are common place and no one gives it a thought to call other people names like this and put people down.

God is concerned with the words we speak. When we call other people names and put them down, we are not loving our neighbor as we are commanded to do in Scripture. **(Matt.22:37-40)** Speech that insults, devalues, or harms another person contradicts the command to love one's neighbor.

For me and Scott, even words that are borderline curse words went out the window. If we had that much knowledge and we knew better than to be cussing around Kennedy and knew better than to teach her that, then how much more so should we be with The Holy Spirit dwelling inside of us. I am amazed at those who claim to be saved and they cuss like a sailor. Obedience is required in order to call yourself a Christian.

Eph.4:29 - Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

God tells us not to cuss like a sailor and furthermore to be mindful of our words even beyond that. Speech that corrupts, wounds, deceives, or promotes sin has no place in the life of those who have put off the old self and been renewed in Christ. In Ephesus, where pagan worship and moral disorder shaped public life, believers were to display a transformed allegiance through their words. The tongue can spread death or life **(Prov. 18:21)**, bless God or injure those made in His image **(James 3:5–10)**. Paul's command reaches beyond profanity to include slander, bitterness, falsehood, crude joking, and every form of speech that damages another person.

If Ephesus was corrupt 2000 years ago, look at what we are living in now. Even more wicked and corrupt times than ever before. How much more are we called to be salt and light by the way we live and certainly our words. **(Matt.5:13-16)**

Words are to strengthen others according to the particular need before them. The church is pictured throughout Paul's letters as a body and a building, with every believer called to contribute to its health and growth. Encouragement, truthful correction, comfort, instruction, and timely counsel can fortify a discouraged believer, restore one caught in sin, or direct a listener toward obedience. Such speech reflects Christ, who ministered to individuals with perfect knowledge of their need.

Believers are to speak in a manner that displays the grace they have received from God. Grace-filled words do not compromise truth or excuse sin; they communicate truth with mercy, patience, and love. In a city marked by public rhetoric and competing religious claims, gracious speech bore witness to the character of Christ, who came full of grace and truth **(John 1:14)**. Conversation seasoned by God's grace can become an instrument of comfort, conviction, reconciliation, and spiritual growth **(Colossians 4:6)**.

Proverbs 8:13 – The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

If God hates a forward mouth, then we should too, so what is it? It is a term for speech that is stubborn, contrary, deceitful, or disobedient to what is good and right. It originally meant moving away from or facing the wrong direction. Over time it came to describe someone who is difficult, perverse, unruly, and rebellious against authority or truth. It's an uncontrolled mouth that says whatever it wants to say.

Froward speech includes lying, cursing, gossip, and idle words that wound others and reveal an ungoverned spirit. Froward speech and perverse speech are basically the same thing, any language that twists the truth, promotes deceit or expresses moral corruption contrary to God's character. This is not my focus but this does go along with watching what you say. And a mouth that naturally pops off and says whatever it wants to usually cusses too.

Someone who always cusses and talks ugly might try to fool you but usually how they talk, naturally comes out and their mouths tell off on them.

Proverbs 18:21 – Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

New Age has perverted this Scripture beyond belief. They have people saying they speak life to their finances and all sorts of non-sense. The gist of the Scripture is that we can be uplifting and encouraging to others or we can use our words to tear them down and bring hurt and harm by what we say.

Words can preserve life through truthful counsel, wise rebuke, comfort, testimony, and the defense of the innocent. They can also bring ruin through lies, slander, false witness, betrayal, and incitement to violence. In Israel's oral culture, spoken testimony affected courts, families, covenants, and public reputation. Two false witnesses could send someone to their death.

James compares the tongue to a fire capable of devastating destruction (**James 3:5–6**), while Jesus teaches that speech reveals the abundance of the heart (**Matthew 12:34**). God spoke creation into being (**Genesis 1**); human speech does not share His divine power, yet it carries real moral force because people bear His image.

When you hear someone cussing like a sailor as we say, is Christianity the first thing that comes to mind about that person? No, it isn't. Do you think, they are being Christlike? We are made in His image, let's not smut it up by having filthy language.

Those who habitually use words, whether for wisdom or harm, will eventually bear the results of their speech. Scripture repeatedly joins fruit with the visible outcome of character and conduct (**Matthew 7:16–20; Galatians 6:7–8**). A tongue devoted to truth and grace yields trust, peace, and life, while a tongue delighted in careless or cruel speech produces conflict, guilt, and judgment. Believers are therefore called to let their speech serve the Lord who gives life, speaking what is good for building up and giving grace to those who hear (**Ephesians 4:29**).

Matthew 15:18- But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

Words can become instruments of rebellion, hatred, and destruction, and God holds people accountable for what proceeds from the heart out through the mouth. Speech reveals what has been welcomed and cultivated within a person. Words may bring life or destruction, and every careless word remains accountable before God.

What's in our hearts comes out naturally. Scripture (**Jeremiah 17:9**) says the heart is deceitful above all things. God's remedy for our hearts is not outward religious performance but the new heart promised through His saving work.

Usually in Scripture where it speaks of cursing or corrupt communication we have to remember the ancient languages of the Bible did not have direct equivalents to modern English curse words or vulgarities. Instead, the focus of biblical teaching is on the *intent* and *impact* of the words.

Traditional profanity includes using sacred names (like God or Jesus) in a flippant or disrespectful way, which violates the commandment against taking the Lord's name in vain (**Exodus 20:7**).

Our society lets the words "oh my God" roll off the tongue without any thought to it at all. As Christians you should not be talking like that. It is irreverent. The world says it with no meaning to it as if it is so common place. I don't. I used to but not anymore. Maybe once in a great while I might slip up but I can't remember the last time. And if you slip up with "oh my God" or a curse word or something ugly, be quick to ask God for forgiveness and go on.

Also, we should not be using Jesus' name in place of a curse word and we should not be saying blank God. Just leave His name out, because if you are not in prayer to Him or thanking Him or praising Him then don't be saying Jesus or God or oh my God etc. Reverence Him always.

Do you think Jesus cussed? Do you think He talked with nasty and filthy words to make His points or show emphasis? No He did not.

When I taught Children's church you can tell what sort of home the child is coming from by how they talked and what they say. When you have a young child who cusses, it is what he / she is hearing and learning at home.

The Holy Spirit is The One Who teaches us God's Word. He's the one Who brings conviction on us about our sins. Do you think He really won't convict someone with a potty mouth about how they talk? He certainly will. I know someone that claims to be a Christian for years and years now at least 15 years. This person's language and how they talk has not changed one bit. Do you think The Holy Spirit is incapable of changing the way someone talks? Do you think He can't make them aware of their words and help them to get the filthy, nasty, cuss words out of their vocabulary? HE is more than able. He is well able. The person who continues to talk that way is either not saved or has grieved The Holy Spirit so much that He has left the building which comes back to not being saved. I will say when someone is first saved, it isn't instant, they might still cuss sometimes but there should be a big change right up front. It should not take years and years with no change.

People naturally know better than to cuss because every time I have had someone come to this church and say a curse word they quickly said, oh excuse me or I'm sorry about that.

How about when people go to a court of law. Everyone knows you don't cuss in the courtroom. We are more respectful to men on this earth in that sense than to God Himself. God is Holy and High above ALL things. We should be even more reverent to HIM.

James 3:10 - Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

James exposes a contradiction that reveals a divided heart. The tongue that praises God must not also wound people made in God's likeness (**James 3:9**). Words carry power for life or death (**Proverbs 18:21**) and disclose what fills the heart (**Matthew 12:34**). Balaam's attempted curse of Israel became blessing

because God overruled his sinful purpose (**Numbers 22–24**), yet believers are called willingly to bring their speech under God’s rule.

James addresses fellow believers with familial affection while firmly calling them to repentance. New life in Christ must reshape speech as well as conduct. Consistent, truthful, gracious speech testifies to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 12:14 - Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

God’s people are to be set apart for Him in conduct, desires, and devotion. The holy God commanded Israel, “Be holy, because I am holy,” and Peter applies that command to the church. Holiness is not merely outward religious observance; it is the sanctifying work of God displayed through obedient lives. Those redeemed by Christ are called to turn from sin and to pursue conformity to His character.

Holiness is indispensable because no sinful person can enter God’s presence apart from the cleansing and transforming grace of Christ. Salvation is not earned by moral effort, yet genuine faith produces a life increasingly marked by sanctification. The promise reaches its fullness when believers see the Lord in eternal glory, as Jesus taught: “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

CLOSING

I want to leave you with two short prayers you can pray about the words you speak:

Psalms 19:14 - Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my Strength, and my Redeemer.

Psalms 141:3 – Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.

We want God to take control of what we say and guard our lips. We want to have our hearts right with Him.

For those of you who are still cussing, using foul language, I hope you can see now that it is not righteous behavior and it is not acceptable and pleasing in God's sight. He is concerned with how we talk. Make sure you truly are saved and ask God to help you break the bad habit off and out of your life by the power of The Holy Spirit. Ask Him to help you to speak pleasing words and to use your words for His glory. He can and will.

PRAYER