

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY



TEN COMMANDMENTS #3 **Part 2**

In the first section of this study we discussed the decline of morality in the words and expressions amongst mankind today. In this section let's discuss the causes, effects and cures for this moral decay.

What causes people to use and accept profanity?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:33; What does this Scripture say to you?

Consider and discuss these possible influences on the words we speak.

- 1) **Bad Habits.** How do our habits influence our words and actions?
(Note: For many people, it becomes habitual, and they don't even recognize when they are doing it. Many times I've pointed out a person's foul language as offensive to me, or the women present, or to God, only to find the individual confused, convinced they hadn't been using bad language at all!)
- 2) **Lack of vocabulary.** Discuss this.
(Note: People usually cuss to give emphasis, power, or influence over others in speech. My contention is that you can do a much better job with much less offense if you spend ten minutes a day in the dictionary!)
- 3) **An immature or non-existent relationship with God through Jesus Christ.** Your thoughts.
(Note: My wife complains when our dogs do certain things she doesn't think are appropriate. I tell her, it's a dog's nature to bark when startled, or to chase squirrels, or to sniff things, etc. They are dogs, and they are doing dog things. People are the same. I recognize that we all live according to our nature. Non-believing sinners do sinful things because that is their nature. But Paul explains that coming into personal relationship with Jesus gives us a new nature (2 Corinthians 5:17) and we must subdue the old nature. Ephesians 4:29 beautifully summarizes these principles when it instructs: "Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them" (NLT). As Christian believers, we need to practice what we preach. James tells us only God can control the tongue. We **MUST** allow Him to do so if we expect to gain credibility with the lost and lead them to Jesus.)

(Note: Although many are unwilling to recognize it, the use of profanity is a **big** deal. According to Cuss Control Academy, an organization in Lake Forest, Illinois (which incidentally has no religious affiliation and gives presentations on how to help eliminate profanity from the workplace) "**swearing**" imposes both personal and societal penalties. For the individual user, it endangers relationships, discloses a lack of character, reflects ignorance as well as immaturity, and creates an overall bad impression. It often turns

discussions into arguments and can lead to violence. James V. O'Conner, president of CCA, contends: "Our reluctance to restrain our impulses and to make the effort to be polite is contributing to a coarser, less civil society.")

Read James 3:10-12; Explain what this says to you and how it can apply directly to your walk with God. (Note: The Apostle James said nature has no confusion in her ways. He explains that a fountain has either salt or fresh water. A fig tree bears figs, not olives; the vine bears grapes and not figs. But man, the highest of God's creation, is conflicted. There's something wrong in his inner being. And the fact that he blesses with one breath and curses in the next is evidence of it. There's an old computer acronym known as GIGO – "Garbage In, Garbage Out.")

Do you have a problem with profanity? Colonel Harland Sanders of Kentucky Fried Chicken fame used to have a problem. He said he could never get control until he turned his life over to the Lord.

CHRIST CONTROL

Read Psalms 51:10; What does this Scripture say to you personally?

(Note: The secret of a governable tongue is not self-control, but Christ control. Knowing Christ, and allowing Him to be Lord of every aspect of your life is the key to learning to control your tongue. If you don't know Him personally, ask God to forgive you of your sin and create a clean new heart within you.)

DEFINITIONS What do you think the following terms mean?

- Swearing –
- Obscenities –
- Expletives –
- Sexually explicit language –
- Vulgarity –
- Cursing --
- Cussing --
- Slang –
- Blaspheming –
- Taking God's name in vain –
- Ethnic slurs –

QUESTIONS: Discuss the following:

If I keep the third commandment – not taking God's name in vain – can I use other forms of slang, colloquialisms or expletives?

As a Christian should I ever use the above language?

How about slang words like "darn," "dang," "fricking," (others?) are they acceptable?

DEFINE THESE POSITIVE SPEECH TERMS?

- Encouragement –
- Blessing –
- Praise –
- Uplifting –
- Complimenting –
- Admiration –
- Appreciation –

QUESTIONS? When you compare the two definition lists, which one appeals to you more? Which list do you prefer to hear people speaking to you and about you? Which do you feel better about in your heart when you use them? How can you practice the Golden Rule (Mt. 7:12) in your language and speech?

PRAYER: Pray and ask God to take control of both your heart and your tongue. Ask Him to fill your heart with Jesus and your mouth with love.

Thank you for taking the time to study this very important topic. Should you wish to dig deeper, here are some additional Scriptures for your consideration dealing with profanity as well as positive, uplifting words. Study them and use them for your personal victory over your tongue, as well as a tool to assist others.

Exodus 4:10-12; 20:7; 21:17

Leviticus 18:21; 19:12; 20:3; 21:6; 22:2, 32

Deuteronomy 5:11

Psalms 10:7; 12:2-4; 19:14; 34:13, 122; 37:30; 39:1; 56:10; 59:12; 65:1; 107:17; 139:20; 141:3

Proverbs 4:24; 11:9; 12:18, 22-23, 25; 13:3; 15:1, 4, 18, 23; 16:21, 28; 18:7, 21; 19:19-21

Proverbs 21:23; 25:11, 18; 26:28; 27:2; 28:23; 30:9

Ecclesiastes 7:22

Isaiah 52:5

Matthew 7:12; 12:5, 34-37; 15:18-20; 26:74

Luke 6:28; 12:12; 17:11-19

Acts 24:6

Romans 1:8, 21-23; 2:24; 3:13, 14

Ephesians 4:15, 29-32; 5:4

Philippians 4:6, 8-9

Colossians 3:8, 17, 4:6

I Timothy 4:12

Titus 2:7-8

James 1:19, 26; 3:2 to 4:10

1 Peter 3:10

2 Peter 2:18

Revelation 13:1, 6; 16:9, 11, 22