



November Bible Study Series

Avoiding Toxic Talk

Lesson Three:

What's Wrong with Profanity?

“Profanity is the use of strong words by weak people.”

Three Questions:

- 1. What is profanity?**
- 2. What does the Bible say about profanity?**
- 3. Should Christians ever use profanity?**

A Biblical View of Profanity

James 3:8-10 (NKJV), But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the resemblance of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

1 Timothy 4:12, Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

Matthew 12:36, But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken.

WHAT IS PROFANITY?

What is the meaning of profane?

- 1.Characterized by profanity or cursing.**
- 2.Not concerned with or devoted to religion.**
- 3.Not holy because unconsecrated or impure or defiled.**
- 4.Grossly irreverent toward what is held to be sacred.**

**Profanity is the vulgar, impure,
irreverent, or impure use of
language.**

Matthew 5:22, But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.

**Is there a Profane Word List in
the Bible?**

PROFANITY, WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Profanities are classified into three main areas: obscenity, vulgarity, and blasphemy.

1. OBSCENITY is a state or quality of being shocking to a person's sense of what is decent or moral. An utterance, act, or object that is obscene. An offensive work, behavior, language, or image.

2.VULGARITY - the quality or state of lacking refinement or good taste. Synonyms - grossness, rudeness, tastelessness.

3. BLASPHEMY is verbal or written reproach of God's name, character work, or attributes.

Exodus 20:7 “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.”

Leviticus 18:21, “Do not give any of your children to be sacrificed to Molech, for you must not profane the name of your God. I am the LORD.”

Molech is the biblical name of a Canaanite god associated with child sacrifice, through fire or war.

Ephesians 4:29, “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

The word “unwholesome”, denotes *bad, decayed, or rotten*, which is applied typically to decomposing vegetables or animal carcasses.

Matthew 7:18-20, A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, by their fruit you will recognize them....

Scripture References:

Ephesians 5:4, “Nor should there be **obscenity**, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.”

Colossians 4:6, “Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt.”

Philippians 1:27, “Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.”

Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

Colossians 3:8, “But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.”

Three Laws for Christian Speech:

1. Christian speech must be **KIND**.
2. Christian speech must be **PURE**.
3. Christian speech must be **TRUE**.

2 Timothy 2:16, “Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.”

**PROFANITY, SHOULD
CHRISTIANS EVER USE IT?**

Matthew 15:11, “What goes into a man’s mouth does not make him ‘unclean,’ but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him ‘unclean.’”

Matthew 12:34, “You brood of vipers,
how can you who are evil say anything
good? For out of the overflow of the
heart the mouth speaks.”

**Things that come out of the mouth
not only make one unclean but
also show the condition of
their heart.**

“CHRISTIAN CUSS WORDS”

**1 Corinthians 10:32, "Do not
cause anyone to stumble,
whether Jews, Greeks or the
church of God--"**

**Even non-Christians know that
Christians should not use foul
language.**

Psalm 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.

Follow Up Chat

1. Are you troubled by the amount of profanity you hear and see in our society?
2. How difficult is it to live as an example in speech?
3. What is your personal view about the usage of profanity? Do you tolerate it among your family, peers, and co-workers?
4. When people around me use profanity, I...

5. What are some (Alternative) “Christian Cuss Words” you’ve heard?

6. Words that are substitutions for profane words are just as unacceptable as the offensive words themselves. Agree or disagree?

7. What should you do when you fail in this area?

8. How do you express your emotions of anger, frustration, or surprise?