

Talk It Over

Deep Problems, Deeper Grace

(Week 2)

Why Profanity Is A Problem

SMALL TALK

1. Who laid down the law in your household growing up? How did you try to bend the rules? With what consequences? Which ones were unbending?

VIEWPOINT

2. **READ Exodus 20:1-2; 7.** What important information did God himself say before he gave the commandments? Why is this important? Why is commandment # 3 a big deal?
3. **READ Mark 7:20-23.** What was the context that led to this teaching? Why is this so important for us to understand? What does verse 7:23 mean? What “defiles” a person? What does it mean to be “defiled”?
4. **READ James 3:9-12.** What “should not be” and why not? What is the solution?
5. **READ Ezekiel 36:26-27.** What is prophesied, and how did God bring this about?

GETTING PERSONAL

6. Have you ever thought, what’s the big deal about misusing God’s name? Have you ever thought what’s the big deal about profanity?
7. Have you ever thought about how what comes out of you is defiling you?
8. How can our group encourage one another to maintain a clean heart and continue to “address the mess at the source”?

MAKING PROGRESS

Lord Jesus, thank you for your sacrifice to take away all the darkness flowing from my heart. Thank you for washing me clean. Renew me, restore me, and help me to speak from the good things I store up in my heart. I want to honor you with my mouth. In Jesus Name I pray. **Amen.**

September 13, 2020

Deep Problems, Deeper Grace

2-Why Profanity is a Problem

Last week we focused on how both science and the Bible, specifically psychology and theology, are actually in agreement: Humans are happier with boundaries.

We also focused on how God's commandments wake us up to our need for Deeper Grace found in our savior Jesus.

The boundary we are looking at today is one most people do not understand.

Commandment 3:

{7} “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

I. Don't MESS with the NAME.

What's the big deal--what's in a name? Names are important.

Dr. Pepper has a little “R” after their name, which means it is a Registered Trade Mark.

This means that their trade mark NAME is very important to the company to protect. Why? The name and the product go together. The name has a reputation. Don't mess with that reputation. That is why a name is important to a company. The name stands for who they are!

Counterfeits abound. Dr. Pop, Dr. Perfect, Dr. Sparkle, Dr. Nut, Dr. Radical, Dr. Dazzle, Dr. Perky, Dr. Thunder, Dr. Extreme, or Real Dr. Just because you give a soda a medical degree doesn't mean it's Dr. Pepper.

Companies feel strongly about protecting their name and reputation, and so does God.

This commandment uncovers a deep problem. It is a problem of contempt for God when we misuse his name.

II. Definition Of PROFANITY

Profane means marked by contempt or irreverence for what is sacred.

Profane use of God's name is epidemic. God's name is used as a swear word. People say, "Jesus Christ" as if the name is a curse word. Does that strike anyone as odd? Nobody says "Buddha!" as curse word. I doubt it. I suspect the reason is this: darkness is only interested in encouraging contempt for the one with real glory.

God's name is used in uttering ungodly curses. Phrases like "God damn you", or simply "Damn it". Or "Go to Hell" are curses that come from nothing less than contempt and irreverence for what is sacred. This is profanity!

Cuss words and curse words are profanity even when God's Name is not mentioned.

Cuss words and curse words are also insults on what is sacred. Take the "F*bomb" or the "F*word" for example. The "F*word" besmirches the sacred act which God designed and reserved for privacy and intimacy in marriage and marriage alone. It shows contempt for the sacredness of God's design. With contempt profanity is a slam on the goodness of God as designer and creator.

Some profanities may not seem like slams against God, but they are. People with contempt for God take what God has made, take it out of the place and order God gives a thing and speak it out of disrespect in a way that is out of order for shock effect and contempt. Take using the "sh*word" as one example. That uses a word with contempt because God's design for the thing referred to with contempt is supposed to be buried, and hidden, and disposed of discreetly. To use it profanely is to use the word for shock

effect and contempt. Take another example of “profanities” about private parts of the human body. These words are first of all not the anatomically correct labels, are then used with contempt toward people. People, by the way, are also sacred, having been created in God’s image. Such use of words with malice, contempt, and for shock value is profanity, undermining God and God’s order.

People make excuses. “But I Didn’t Mean Anything By It.”

“I was just letting off steam!” Or, “It’s a meaningless habit”. Or, “I was just being honest with how I felt”. God isn’t buying our excuses. He knows what we are a bit slow to figure out for ourselves. He knows that our method for letting off steam actually builds up more steam, only it’s not steam, its smoke! It is the smoke from the fires of hell. It glorifies darkness. It has nothing to do with that which is good, beautiful, and godly. It does not come from God’s kingdom, but another. It adds smoke and darkness to the realm of darkness. It is lit by the fires of hell.

It doesn’t calm you down, it actually inflames you further. It is never once and done. It doesn’t cleanse your emotions. It grows with malice and defiance inside of you with its usage. It feeds the contempt.

By the way, it isn’t what is called “colorful language” either. It is the opposite of colorful. People who frequently use profanity will soon discover limitations in their vocabulary, and use fewer words to describe their negative emotions. Creativity disappears in favor of using the same dark words over and over again repeatedly through every sentence and paragraph. Have you run into anyone like that? Do you find yourself slipping into the pattern? I’m not here to condemn you. I’m using God’s commandments to point you to deeper grace. You need freedom. Profanity is not freedom of speech, but bondage to an addictive pattern of speech. And it is not an easy addiction to break.

Jesus teaches us how to break such habits. He does not hand out band aides, but goes for a deeper grace, and a deeper cure.

III. What comes OUT is what DEFILES

The religious leaders of Jesus day were bent out of shape when Jesus' disciples didn't wash their hands before eating. The Jewish law was big on cleansing. They thought eating with unclean hands corrupted your soul! Jesus corrected them.

Mark 7:20-23 (NIV2011) {20} He went on: "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. {21} For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, {22} adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. {23} All these evils come from inside and defile a person."

Malice: In the Greek, this word's primary meaning is opposition to God, resistance, contempt, the evil bent of opposing spiritual forces. A characteristic of fallen humanity prior to redemption. It is the product of darkness (the opposite of the fruit of the Spirit).

Lewdness: In the Greek, this word means shamelessness, nearly a madness or mania bent on shameless self-indulgence. A soul filled with lewdness has thrown off all discipline, and shocks public decency. He or she no longer cares what others say or think. Conscience has been strangled. Lewdness begins inside, then formulates words, and is then followed by shameless outward actions casting off all restraint. The fires of hell produce the smoke called lewdness.

Slander: (*blasphēmia*) This is a combination of two words, *blaptō* means "to hurt" combined with *phēmē* "speech" and it is translated *Blasphemy, evil speaking, slander, reviling*. Blasphemy is to say something with evil or harmful

intent toward God. But *blasphēmia* can be spoken toward people as evil speaking, slander, or reviling.

Folly: In the Greek, this word is characterized by a contempt for moral, ethical, and sacred principles of life and conduct, as revealed by God, in the Word of God.

IV. Address the MESS at the SOURCE

James 3:9-12 (NIV2011) {9} With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. {10} Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. {11} Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? {12} My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

The solution to this is not merely trying harder to hold our tongue, or zip our lip. That is a band aid approach to a deep problem at a deeper source.

God provides a cure at the deepest level. [Prophesied almost 600 years B.C.]

Ezekiel 36:26-27 (NIV2011) {26} I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. {27} And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Deep problems require deeper grace. Jesus offers us what we need. A new heart, with his Spirit inside. Even after you have received deeper grace, getting rid of old habits is not automatic. We need to cooperate with God. We need to do some work outs with God to change our patterns. He's coaching. He gives us disciplines. One work out discipline is prayer asking for help. Ask

God to make you more aware. Work with God on the disciplines to cleanse our hearts.

Colossians 3:8 (NIV) “But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language [disgraceful or abusive words] from your lips.”

When “Filthy Language” is the habit from your pre-conversion life, you need God’s deeper grace to help you remove the stains and voiced smoke that glorifies the kingdom of darkness.

As I was praying about this message I thought of this song and sang it as a prayer. What a powerful antidote.

*I love you Lord,
and I lift my voice,
to worship You
Oh, my soul rejoice*

*Take joy my King
in what You hear.
May it be a sweet,
Sweet sound in Your ear.*