

How's Your Speech?

There was a time when *foul language* was frowned on. But today, as the forces of evil relentlessly assault every standard of right conduct, common decency is driven further away from the perfect will of God.

There are three categories of foul language:

- 1) **Profanity**: profaning the name of God (Exo 20:7; Lev 19:12).
Do you say, "Oh my God" in a casual way?
When you're angry with someone do you call on God to damn them?
- 2) **Obscenity**: words rooted in reference to sexual acts.
- 3) **Vulgarity**: words rooted in reference to body parts and or body waste.

The apostle Paul identified three types of foul speech (Eph 5:4):

- 1) **"Filthiness"**: shameful and obscene (some music, movies).
- 2) **"Foolish talking"**: idle gossip, conversation that is in bad taste.
- 3) **"Coarse jesting"**: a vulgar sense of humor (some comedy).

God commands, "*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building up other according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen*" (Eph 4:29).

Proper speech can be determined by its results:

- 1) Will it honor God?
- 2) Will it create a sense of good will toward others?
- 3) Will it encourage righteous, holy, godly living?

How serious should we be about our speech? Paul said, "*the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience*" (Eph 5:6). Jesus said, "*for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned*" (Matt 12:36-37).

The sweet psalmist King David prayed "*Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips*" (Psa 141:3).

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Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.