

# Putting Away Profanity

*A lad in Boston, rather small for his age, worked in an office as an errand boy. One day his employers were teasing him about being so small and said, "you will never amount to much; you are too small." The lad looked at them and said, "Well, I have learned after working around here that I can do something which none of you four men can do." "What is it?" they asked? "I can carry on a conversation without having to fill it with vulgar words or using God's name in vain," replied the little fellow. And that ended the conversation.*

There is a great battle going on in the lives of many Christians. The battle centers around the tongue. What comes out of your mouth around friends? When you get angry? In casual conversation? When someone "pushes your buttons?" While the majority of Christians I know strive to live morally upright and pure, some really battle with speaking uprightly at all times.

I know all about this battle. I have been down in the trenches—relentlessly biting my lip—making sure that nothing improper is said. Countless are the times I have lost battles. Many can identify with speaking before considering the consequences—sometimes using the vilest of language to emphasize displeasure. Think of the damage to one's influence. Think of how words can hurt others—especially Jesus Christ! Think of how once spoken, words can never be taken back! Thankfully, with the help of Jesus I have had much success in these battles over the last few years! Success can be achieved! (Philippians 4:13)

Profanity is such an easy trap to fall into. It is everywhere! From the TV sitcom, co-workers, family, on the street, or in the gym, there is probably not a day that goes by where we do not hear at least one improper word! Please note the words associated with profane: "vulgar," "coarse," "irreverence," "contempt," and "impious." Such words should be repulsive to the Christian! Christians have been instructed *to let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth.* (Ephesians 4:26) In Ephesians 5:4 Paul said, *neither filthiness, nor foolish talking...* Jesus said, *for by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned.* (Matthew 12:37). It is important that we understand these facts about profanity:

***Profane words are always evidence spiritual heart trouble.*** In Luke 6:45 Jesus said, (the) mouth speaks from that which fills (the) heart. If we are tempted to speak in such way it is a sure sign of spiritual heart trouble! Immediate attention is needed! Profanity is a cancer on the soul! Seek help through prayer. Resolve that you will fight back and have confidence that you will win—with the help of Jesus!

***It is no mark of a gentleman to swear.*** The devil tricks man into thinking that uttering profanity will make him look bigger, and better. In reality, it reveals just how small of a person we really are! We often think that cursing and swearing will **really** emphasize our point. Peter did! When he denied Jesus the 3rd time we read: But he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this man you are talking about!" (Mark 14:71) Luke's account tells us that Jesus turned and looked at him after his denial. (Luke 22:61) Can you imagine how Peter felt?

***Profaneness does no man any good.*** No man is richer, wiser, or happier for it! In fact, many a man has been ruined because of his speech! It in no way helps ones morals or manners. Albert Barnes mentions: *it is insulting with those with whom we associate; degrading to the mind; unprofitable; needless; and injurious in society.*

***God will not hold the profane swearer guiltless!*** Why? Words reveal the contents of the heart! If our words are true, upright, honest, and pure—our heart is on the right track. However, if our words are vile, profane, false, envious, and malignant—it will prove our spiritual heart is in serious trouble! Contrary to popular belief, it is a big deal!

How well are you fighting this battle? You can enjoy success—with the help of Jesus. You can enjoy victory through the resolve to overcome and the desire to focus upon good and wholesome things. (Philippians 4:8) You can overcome through associating with good Christian people who will help you. (1 Corinthians 15:33). Remember, trust in God! He will aid you! Paul said, Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us. (Ephesians 3:20)

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