



"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast" - Hebrews 6:19

Welcome! We're glad you are here!

Sunday - May 7, 2023

Put Away Filthy Speech

by Troy Spradlin

I remember back when people used to say, "He cusses like a sailor!" That meant someone had a really filthy mouth, or a strong propensity to use vulgar language. Yet, have you noticed how you don't really hear that phrase as often anymore? So, what changed? Did sailors clean up their act? Or, could it be something else? Sadly, it is something else (sorry, no offense intended to our sailors!) Vulgarity - that is, words that are "common, coarse, or unrefined," and often called *swearing, filthy speech, explicatives, or cussing* - has become so commonplace that it is almost impossible to escape. Everywhere you turn, vulgar language is encountered from small children to adults in influential, authoritative positions using it. What used to be banned on regular TV is no longer considered offensive. It seems as if no one is capable of having a conversation these days without inserting foul words. Oh, how society has changed!

The ready acceptance of vulgarity in our society was highlighted in an article that I came across recently, that was discussing the evolution of language. Essentially, the writer was trying to establish the point that cussing has "naturally" become a more common practice in all levels of conversations today, from school classrooms to boardrooms, and no longer limited to bar rooms and locker rooms. He gave many reasons why cussing is now "useful," "good for you," and "acceptable." He went on to explain how words change, evolve and integrate into our regular vernacular. His conclusion was that nothing could be done to stop the etymological processes, so we might as well just embrace the "progress" of how our society communicates today.



While I am truly fascinated by languages and how they have developed, there is one thing that no amount of "progress" will ever change, and that is God's will concerning what comes out of our mouths. **No matter how accepted or commonplace vulgar language may become, if Scripture calls it a sin, it will always be a sin.** The inspired penman, Paul the Apostle, wrote, "*But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.*" (Colossians 3:8) The words "filthy language" in that verse are sometimes translated as, "abusive speech, dirty words, shameful speaking, and obscene talk" in other Bible versions. It is only one word in the Greek which literally means, "vile, or foul words and conversation." This verse teaches us that we are to get rid of such behavior in our lives, to no longer let that be part of our speech. It is a command, not a suggestion. If the commands of Jesus' apostles are ignored, then it is considered sin (cf. 1 Cor 14:37; James 4:17).

In Ephesians 4:29, Paul again admonished, "*Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*" Then also in 5:4, "*neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.*" A good complimentary study to these passages would be James 3. The bottom line is, there is no room in a Christian's life for cussing, or coarse language. None! According to these verses, a Christian has no business telling dirty jokes, repeating vulgar catchphrases, nor be listening to music (and movies) that have filthy language in them.

The article also implied that using vulgarity was no longer seen as a sign of lower class, uneducated speech nor considered "taboo" for any conversation. However, among those who profess to follow Christ, using profanity is a clear sign of spiritual immaturity, or complete ignorance of what the Scriptures teach about the subject. What comes out of our mouths is just as important (if not more so, in this case) as our actions. Remember, we may be the only Jesus that someone has ever seen, so what kind of impact are you going to have on a soul if you are cussing? How does filthy language bring glory and honor to God? Let us not forget what Jesus said in Matthew 12:36, "*I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak.*" Watch what you say! It matters to God!

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

SNAC
SUNDAY NIGHT
AFTER CHURCH
May 7 | Bird's

Graduation Banquet
Sunday, May 21st

Panhandle
Devo

June 4

SUMMER KICKOFF

JUNE 6

2023 Camp Dates

Teen Week (6-12 grades):

June 11 – 16

Jr. Week (1-5 grades):

June 25 – 29

Register @

www.gulfcoastbiblecamp.com



Save the Date:
Saturday, July 1st

Margaret St.
Church of Christ



NEW HOPE
MISSION TRIP

July 8-12

LEGACY
AT FAULKNER UNIVERSITY

Sign up & pay by May 7th

JULY 20TH-23RD, 2023

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes! With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word." - Psalm 119:9-1

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Special

- Patricia Ann* - prayers, health (MZL)
- Darrell Bozeman* - cancer dianosis
- Janice Carter* - tests, waiting on results
- Gifford family - loss of Jean
- Hatcher family* - loss of mom, Rachel Sullins
- Lauren Kreuz* (Martin family) - prayers
- Linda Loftin* and family - loss of Jim*
- Eddie Longmire* - loss of brother, Sam
- Donald McGriff* - surgery/recovery
- Collin Mense - health (Pat Mense*)
- Greg Smith* family - loss of foster son
- Kevin Shanahan - operation (Scott's* dad)
- Springer family - loss of Kayla
- Vonada family - loss of Troy*
- Gloria Vonada* - foot surgery / recovery
- Jan Whitney* - heart procedure, recovery
- Andrea Wilson* - knee surgery, recovery

2023 Recently Baptized / Restored / Identified

- Brittany Parker* - Baptized
- Dawson Hitchcock - Baptized
- Olivia Gingerich - Baptized
- Lanie Scott* - Baptized
- Terry & Judy Jennings - Identified
- Josh & Stephanie Jennings - Identified
- Laura Oliver*- Identified
- Jeremy & Amber Dunaway* - Identified

Mission Works

- Shanahans* - Mission Italy
- Eliezer Perez - San Lorenzo, Paraguay
- Trevor Smoot - Domestic Missions
- Sebastain Garcia - Brazil
- SRC Correctional Institute - Paul Discher

Students in College

- Seth Crider
- Stephen English
- Caitlyn Frizzell
- Jackson Lash
- Caleb Owens
- Nick Webb
- Reed Wilson
- Lexi Wildes

Other Requests / Health Issues

- Gerry Baldwin - health (J.Pace sister)
- Sharon Ates - recovery (Gallagher*)
- Bob Black - health (Lipford*)
- John & Gale Broadfoot - health
- Winston Burnham* - health
- Sherryn Canniff*- health, pain
- Sherry Davis* - health
- Fatima Deem- pregnant, problems (Nunes)
- Keturah Dickey - MS (K. Longmire*)
- Laura Elliot - (S. Lee* mom)
- Myrna Fuller* - pulmonary fibrosis
- Steve Fulton - pain, health difficulties
- Dixie Gorham
- Daphne Hamilton - surgeries, health
- Edwina Harris - health (J.Pace sister)
- Steve Hartzog - health issues (Alona's friend)
- Barbara Helms*- health
- Chris Hollis - (McGriff)
- Kenna Jackson - (Kristina P's* friend)
- Marcia Jones - (Kenya's* friend)
- Yvonne Loomis - prayers, health (Nunes*)
- Cindy Marotta - paralyzed (Nunes*)
- Vicente Martinez - kidney transplant
- Mary McGriff* - health, asthma
- Ron Miller- esophagus infection (Ina Ruth*)
- Jeffery Norman - transplant list (Nunes*)
- Patsy Prince - (Burnham*)
- Otis & Eleanor Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Kara Ritchie - blood disorder (M.Scott*)
- Glenn Rose - heart problems (Garcia*)
- August Smith -cleft palate (J.English*)
- Zyler Thompson - rescheduled surgery
- Julia Torpey* - health
- Jan Whitney*

Military

- Nick Bartell - Ft. Walton Beach
- John Bartell - Washington, DC
- Spencer England - Japan
- Spencer Gable-New London, Groton, CT
- Amya Huey* - Italy
- Ni Mack - Kentucky

Cancer

- Kandi Armand - (Bostwick*)
- Justin Barnhart - former member
- Ron Bartanen* - cancer
- Darlene Baxley* -spread to her spine (Baxley*)
- Misty Bray* - (Bird*)
- Mark Carlson - (C.Davis*)
- Tish Clark - surgery (Hatcher*)
- Pat Deforest*
- Brenda Dunham - (J.English*)
- Eddie English - (R.English*)
- Timothy Ezzell - former member
- Chris Hendrix - (Baxley*)
- Ricky Jenning - (McGriff*)
- Lisa (Dixon) Johnson - (McGriff*)
- Tierney Lancaster - rare blood (Baxley*)
- Marie and Jeff Lorentz - (J. Bartell*)
- Peter Machon - (Torpey*)
- Darrel Mason - (D.Hill*)
- Karen Parker - (Spradlin* friend)
- Karen Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Megan Sanders - brain cancer (Blisse*)
- Al Sherdan - bladder/prostatic cancer (Coen)
- Brooks Ann Singley* - good news!
- Mary Lee Smith - (McGriff*)
- Marlene Smith - (Fulton*)
- Donnie Turner- cancer (Helms*)
- Reynold Voeltz - (Boughton's friend)
- David Walther - brain (English*)
- Kellie (Wiggins) Ward - (former mem.)
- Daisy Jean Williams - (J.Pace)

Assisted Living / Shut-Ins / Rehab

- Sherryn Canniff - homebound
- Josie Coons - hospice (McReynolds*)
- Donna Dudley-Life Care Center (S. Davis*)
- Annie Favorite - Haven (Mary Lou's mom)
- Bobbie Garcia* - Arcadia Senior Living
- Betty Lee - homebound (D. Lee's mom*)
- Linda Mann* - Shut In
- Ina Ruth Miller*- Grandview Retire Center
- Ruth Phillips*- Shut In
- Jim Pitts - Daphne, AL
- Lillian Raines* - Victorian Manor
- Mary Salinas* - Victorian Manor
- Faye Smith (Jeanna's mom) - Shut In

CONGREGATIONAL PLANNING MEETING

TODAY, May 7 @ 4:00 PM | Rm 303
All are welcome to attend!



SERVING WITH HONOR

SUNDAY, MAY 7

MORNING

Opening Prayer Rhet English
 Song Director Casey Bearden
 Sermon Troy Spradlin
 "A God-Centered Marriage"
 Scripture Reading Elliot Wilson
 Ephesians 5:17-33
 Closing Prayer Joe Wilson

Serving Communion (L R):

Jeff Scott Brett Napier
 Chris Davis Justin Davis
 Dane Harrington (Balcony)
 Comments Josh Owens

EVENING

Opening Prayer Darrell Bozeman
 Singing Elliot Wilson
 Scripture Pete Pierce
 Joshua 24:15
 Comments Josh Owens

Worship Service and Preparation:

Communion Prep David English
 PowerPoint Lori Mense
 Greeters: Elsa Nunes
 Secure Building Jak Gallagher

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Song Director David English
 Opening Prayer Jack Davis

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:

Sunday Bible Class 186
 AM Worship 222
 PM Worship N/A
 Wed. Night Bible Class 140
 Contribution \$10,796

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday AM Bible Class 9:00 am
 Sunday AM Worship 10:00 am
 Sunday PM Classes, Worship ... 6:00 pm
 Wednesday PM Bible Class 6:30 pm

Visitors:

Thank you for coming!

You are our honored guest!

For more information about the church, spiritual topics, our classes, and activities, there is a tract rack at the entrance of the auditorium for your convenience.

Or, ask any member for assistance.

Please take a moment to fill out a visitors card, or sign our guest book so that we might have a record of your attendance. Thank you!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADMINISTRATION

- Deadline for all bulletin items is Thursday, by noon.

EDUCATION

- Adult and Children Bible classes available on Sundays @ 9 AM and Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM.
- Willing to teach? See Chris Davis!

WORSHIP

- Service Rosters are available on the Welcome Desk and Margaret Street website (listed under "Archives")
- "LISTEN" devices available in the foyer, located in the Armoire.

<WiFi Password posted in Foyer>



Scan this QR Code to open webpage for online giving

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 Evangelism Troy Spradlin
 Finance
 Fellowship Jeff Scott*
 OWLS Stephen Fulton
 Involvement Joe Taylor*
 Lads to Leaders David English
 Missions Mike Scott*
 Visitation Bob Locklin
 Kingdom Kids Dane Harrington
 Youth & Family Casey Bearden
 Worship Blake Hatcher*