



Speaking God's Name In Vain And Swearing

July 9, 2023

1. Why did a college professor claim swearing is good?

- A. He claims that those who curse have higher intelligence.
- B. He claims cursing can improve pain tolerance.
- C. He claims cursing can encourage creativity.
- D. He claims cursing allows us to hurt people without throwing punches.

2. What does the Bible say about using the Lord's name in vain?

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. Exodus 20:7 (ESV)

Vain — It is speaking God's name in an empty, meaningless, trivial, or disrespectful way.

- A. **God is committed to His name because it reflects His identity.**
- B. **God is committed to protecting His name and expanding His reputation.**

...for you have exalted above all things your name and your word. Psalm 138:2 (ESV)

But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth. Exodus 9:16 (ESV)

For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. Joshua 2:10–11 (ESV)

C. I am to pray that God's name will be spoken with respect.

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."
Matthew 6:9 (ESV)

D. God promises to punish those who speak His name disrespectfully.

...for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.
Exodus 20:7 (ESV)

Now an Israelite woman's son, whose father was an Egyptian, went out among the people of Israel. And the Israelite woman's son and a man of Israel fought in the camp, and the Israelite woman's son blasphemed the Name, and cursed. Then they brought him to Moses. His mother's name was Shelomith, the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan. And they put him in custody, till the will of the Lord should be clear to them. Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Bring out of the camp the one who cursed, and let all who heard him lay their hands on his head, and let all the congregation stone him. And speak to the people of Israel, saying, Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin. Whoever blasphemes the name of the Lord shall surely be put to death..." Leviticus 24:10–16 (ESV)

E. God's name deserves respect because it contains life-saving power.

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12 (ESV)

For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."
Romans 10:13 (ESV)

...Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour." Acts 16:18 (ESV)

F. I should be careful when using God's name in humor.

3. What does the Bible say about curse words?

But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Ephesians 5:3–6 (ESV)

A. **Sexual sin should not be part of my life.**

- I. **Sexual Immorality** — A junk-drawer term referring to any form of sexual expression outside of one man and one woman in marriage. It excludes pre-marital sex, extra-marital sex, homosexuality, and pornography.
- II. **Impurity** — It means dirty. In context, it refers to sexual uncleanness. It is lewdness. It is dressing and acting to draw attention and seduce.
- III. **Covetousness** — It is a burning desire to have what is our neighbor's. In context, it refers to sexual covetousness, which is allowing ourselves to lust after someone that is not our spouse.

B. **Obscene words should not come from my mouth.**

Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place... Ephesians 5:4 (ESV)

Filthiness — Words or phrases that are dirty. They are the words you wouldn't use around Mom because she would wash your mouth out with soap.

But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Colossians 3:8 (ESV)

C. **Foolish words and actions shouldn't characterize my life.**

Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place... Ephesians 5:4 (ESV)

Foolish Talk — Silly talk. It literally means speaking like a moron.

D. **Dirty jokes and stories shouldn't be part of my life.**

Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place... Ephesians 5:4 (ESV)

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Ephesians 5:6 (ESV)

E. **Rotten words that tear others down should not be part of my life.**

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. Ephesians 4:29 (ESV)

Corrupting — It means rotten fruit.

F. **I am to love my enemies, not curse them.**

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Romans 12:14 (ESV)

"But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you." Luke 6:27-28 (ESV)

G. My speech should be filled with thanksgiving, not cursing and complaining.

Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. Ephesians 5:4 (ESV)

H. I will give an answer to God for my careless words.

I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak... Matthew 12:36 (ESV)

I. My speech determines my future.

For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit." 1 Peter 3:10 (ESV)

J. The words of my mouth reveal the true state of my heart.

From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water. James 3:10–12 (ESV)

The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. Luke 6:45 (ESV)

4. Conclusion

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Psalm 19:14 (ESV)

Life Group Questions

1. Why do you think people use God's name as a curse word?
2. In the message, we learned that we should speak God's name with reverence. In what ways do Christians treat the name of God too casually?
3. This week, if you were to change one thing about how you spoke God's name, what would it be?
4. Refer to point 2 in the outline. What did you learn about speaking God's name that is most important to you?
5. When do you struggle with profanity? If profanity is not a regular struggle in your life, what made a decisive difference in changing your language?
6. Review point 3 in the outline on cursing. What is one thing you learned that you can apply this week?
7. **Ephesians 5:4** tells us to replace our curse words with thanksgiving. **1 Thessalonians 5:18** tells us to give thanks in all circumstances. How does speaking words of thanksgiving in all circumstances help us in the difficult seasons of life?