

## Why Do You Talk Like That?

Psalm 39:1 says, "I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me." It is difficult for a Christian to feel at ease in an environment where God's name is used profanely and disrespectfully; where terminology reflects on the honor of motherhood, where ugly four letter words are thrown around fluently, and sexual life degraded in wicked, crude language.

It is certain that some professed Christians seem more at ease in using vulgar language than they do in trying to refrain from talking ugly in situations where they know they must not! Why do people curse, swear and talk ugly? Several reasons can be proposed. First, those who find it difficult to express themselves will flavor their language with profane expressions. Second, some seek to gain attention, so they curse and utter obscenities. Third, cursing, swearing and vulgarity are merely bad habits to some, well-set in their lives by years of usage. Fourth, many are depraved in nature, filthy in mind, evil in attitude and express it all in wicked language. Fifth, some feel they must use bad language to be accepted and "fit in" with their companions and friends.

The sins of the tongue include lying, cursing, profanity, gossip, slander and obscenities. These "lip sins" are expressions of a deeper disorder. The answer to the question, "Why do you talk like that?" may be found in the words of Christ: "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:34). The true disorder is in the heart, but you can change your speech habits if you want. Remember that when you talk you speak in the presence of God who is to be honored, and in company with others who will be either helped or hurt. Colossians 4:6 says, "Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." We should be expressing "... that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Ephesians 4:29). "Do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:30), for God is listening!

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