

# "DID HE JUST SAY THAT?"

I remember a young adults class I attended one Wednesday evening. There was a man (not a young adult anymore, but that's okay) who was a babe in Christ. Couldn't even tell you the topic or what he was getting excited about, but at some point, in all his excitement, a dirty word slipped out.

All of us just quickly turned our heads, eyes as big as can be with our jaws hitting the floor. Nervous laughter could be heard. No one said it out loud, but you know we were all thinking it: "Did he just say that?" The teacher did a good job and gently pointed out what had happened. This poor brother hadn't even noticed. No one held it against him . . . anyone with half a heart and understanding knew it was nothing more than a good man in need of breaking some bad habits. BUT . . . I never forgot : ) Language is powerful. Our words are powerful.

There's so much "dirty" language out there. Songs, books, movies, video games, entertainment . . . your coworker. Should we really care? Is it okay to use a term that may be offensive now, but at one point it wasn't? What if we personally don't see the big deal with the word? What if we don't intend for it to have such a "sting" to it? What say you? Well, to the word we go!

## Ephesians 4:17-24

- "Walking" like Gentiles.
  - Without understanding.
  - They're ignorant because of hard hearts.
  - They're callous and have given in to the flesh.
- "Walking" like Jesus.
  - With understanding.
  - You understand because your heart has softened.
  - You seek to be a new self mirrored after Jesus.

## Ephesians 4:25-29

- "Therefore" Paul is calling the brethren to application.
  - Speak the truth. (Example: this week selling our house - gave my word to a realtor).
  - Be angry without sinning.
  - Turn from stealing to providing.
- **Vs. 29 "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 5:3-4** "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."
- Again, who we are is not divorced from what we say or do. Godly people do and say godly things. Worldly people do and say worldly things. If you don't have a problem with being sexually immoral, you probably don't have a problem with filthy or crude joking. Think that's blown out of proportion? We have comedians in the States that *literally* make a living using such language. They are sexually immoral, which is why they like to talk about it. Their whole theme is based on it.
- Let's address something:
  - **Some Christians play games with this topic.** This is a sign of foolishness. (*I'm not considering euphemisms right now. Yes, we need to be thoughtful and careful, but that's not my biggest concern*). We know as a culture what's considered bad or not. It doesn't look good when a kid is sent to the principles office for using bad language, yet a Christian has found a way to justify saying them.
    - **Romans 12:16-17** "Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all."
  - **Wrong questions.** Christians shouldn't ask, "What can I get away with? Can you prove it's wrong?"
    - **Titus 2:6-10** Likewise urge the young men to be self-controlled. Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, have nothing evil to say about us. Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.
  - **The Bad.**
    - **James 3:9-12.** What is James saying? What's acceptable?
    - **Matthew 12:33-37.** Get the principle? Our words revealing WHO we are.
      - This is why an artist takes it personal when you reject their work.
      - This is why a musician wants you to appreciate their melodies or lyrics. Because it's an action revealing WHO they are.
      - We are children of God.
    - Really not speaking to those who are still new in the faith working on breaking habits of old. Sometimes it takes a while. But for those who are in Christ and have been for a long time. For those who didn't come from that world, but are pulled into it: it's revealing. It's showing where you're at in your faith. It's showing that you may need to mature and be more sober-minded. It's

showing that you may be in a kingdom you're not ready to acknowledge. **It's a concern at a fundamental level.**

- **Vs. 29** "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.**"

- **The Good.**

- Same principle as above - what we say reflects the heart. Now let's think about it from another angle.
- It's true that bad language can negatively affect the hearer. It can immediately cause a lack of trust and disappointment to the hearer. It can pull others down and back into the dark kingdom. But on the other hand - it can build up and give grace to the hearer.
  - **Ephesians 2:4-10; 3:14-19.** What do you think about that?
  - **Matthew 11:25-30.** Who would you rather listen to? Who should we mirror?