

Sins of the Tongue

Filthy Language

Introduction; Society has changed a lot in the last generation

A. Certain evils have always been prevalent.

1. Immorality has always been common. It is much more common today than a generation ago. The reason for this is probably its acceptance by society in general. A generation ago it was very shameful to have a child out of marriage or be caught just living together. This isn't so today.
2. Drinking and drunkenness have always been common. In many cultures and times this has been acceptable behavior. However many times it is condemned by both religion and society. It is a sin. In our nation today however, it is not a sin. It is a sickness and not the drunk's fault—or at least not all his fault.
3. Pornography has always been common. Again some pagan cultures accepted this as a part of society. The Greek and Roman societies are examples of this. Their art and sculpture glorify nudity and immorality.
4. Many societies do not accept pornography. It may still be common but not openly. It is not set before the public as the Greeks and others did. Many do not even know it exists. A generation ago it was not open in America. Yet today nudity, sensuality and pornography are very common and accessible to all—especially on the internet where there is anonymity.
5. Filthy language, stories, songs and innuendo have often been relegated to back rooms and places where decent people did not go. Yet today they are common. For example in the 1960's these things were done in the back rooms of businesses when only men were present. If a woman entered then things changed. When the men went out in the public their language and behavior changed. Women and customers were to be respected.
6. Yet in the 70's things began to change. With the 'Feminist Movement' the language of women began to change. It mirrored that of men. Their language became filthy and suggestive as well. Very little was taboo. Men and women were equal and could be as filthy as they wanted to be in each others presence. Even young children use filthy language today.
7. We live in a filthy society. Filthy language is just one problem we face as children of God. It is so common that many do not realize they do it. Many do not realize it is wrong.

B. We have been discussing 'Sins of the Tongue.'

1. We have considered 'Gossip' and 'Lying.' Today we will look at 'Filthy Language.' This involves a number of things that we will consider. It isn't just words we use but things we talk about and what we imply.
2. Filthy is a word that very aptly describes our society. People use filthy language when they are angry or when they try to intimidate someone. They use it when they are happy or when they are sad. They use it with enemies and they use it with friends.
3. As Christians we must strive to rise above this and watch what we say and what we talk about. This will make us very different from the world.

C. Today, **'Don't use Filthy Language!'**

I. The Bible condemns things that are filthy

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1. *Eph 5:11-13 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.*
2. The culture in Paul's day was very wicked too. The unfruitful works of darkness are the deeds of the flesh that do not bear fruit towards righteousness. They do not lay up treasures for us in heaven.
3. Christians must not participate in them. They must not approve of them. They must take a stand against them. We must let the world know who we belong to. We must take sides.
4. Many people do things in secret. A husband may not want his wife to know he is having an affair with another woman. He does this in secret but boasts to his buddies. The act of immorality is shameful but it is even more shameful to speak and boast of it.
5. *2 Cor 6:17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."*
6. We are called out of the world into God's marvelous light. Light shows things the way they really are. Shops in ancient bazaars often had very little light. When someone would buy something he would take it outside to the light to inspect it.
7. We must inspect things by the light of the word of God. When we see it is wrong we must come out of it and be separate. This is the only way God will accept us.
8. *1 Cor 5:9-10 I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. 10 Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.*
9. When God's word says to separate ourselves from the world it does not mean we must go live in a monastery or off by ourselves. It means we do not participate in the things of the world.

B. We are warned against filthiness.

1. We must know what is sinful and wrong. If we depend on society to tell us we will not know. The world oftentimes does not know it is in sin.
2. *Prov 30:12 There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes, Yet is not washed from its filthiness.*
3. Many do not think the filthy language and behavior of the world is wrong. They do not try to hide it in the back room. Wickedness has become so common it is accepted.
4. *Eph 5:3-7 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.*
5. Paul very plainly lets us know the kind of speech and behavior that is not accepted. Filthiness, foolish talking and coarse jesting are not fitting. They are not acceptable for the child of God.
6. We must not fool ourselves. If we do these things we will not inherit heaven. Instead we will inherit God's wrath. We must not participate with the world in its sin.
7. The filthiness in verse 4 includes many things. They can be behavior or speech or thoughts. In the context it is used with other sins of the tongue so it is probably filthy language or talking about filthy things.
8. The foolish talking is probably boasting and saying stupid things. Many talk this way to day. It is a waste of time talking to them.
9. The coarse jesting is laughing at evil. It is dirty or evil jokes. It is making light of evil instead of opposing it. These things are wrong and we must not participate with the world in them.

C. We see then that the world is filthy and we must not participate in it.

II. Some kinds of filthy language

A. Blasphemy is one kind of obscene language.

1. Blasphemy is defined as; 1) *disrespect for religion: disrespect for God or sacred things*, 2) *something showing disrespect for religion: something done or said that shows disrespect for God or sacred things* — Microsoft® Encarta Dictionary.
2. Our society does not respect God nor the things of God. Instead it insults God and things that are holy. Men commonly treat clean things in an unclean manner. This has always been wrong.

3. *Ezek 22:26 "Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them."*
4. *Ezek 44:23 "And they shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the unholy, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean."*
5. One of the sins of Israel that caused them to be destroyed was not distinguishing between the clean and unclean. While this applies to many things it also applies to our language.
6. There are certain terms that are religious. They have a proper usage in respect to God and the Bible. They are not to be used in a common or unclean manner.
7. One example is the term, "God." When we use the term 'God' we should use it to pray to Him or praise Him or tell others about Him.
8. Yet the world says, "Oh my God!" very commonly. They are not praying or praising or teaching. They use this clean term as a common expletive. An expletive in linguistics is *a swearword: an exclamation, especially a swearword* —ibid.
9. This is what many mean by, "Oh my God!" It has become a **swearword**. A swearword is a word that is an *offensive or taboo word: a word or phrase that is considered unacceptable in polite language, especially one that is blasphemous or obscene, used to express strong feelings or give offense* —ibid.
10. There are other examples of this. Words like 'hell', 'damn' and so forth are common used as expletives by men. Yet they are religious words that have a proper meaning and usage.
11. When men use these words they are not teaching the Bible or being a good example of righteousness. They are serving the world, the flesh and the devil.

B. We are warned against blasphemy and cursing.

1. *Lev 24:16 'And whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD (i.e. Jehovah) shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall certainly stone him, the stranger as well as him who is born in the land. When he blasphemes the name of the Lord, he shall be put to death.'*
2. *James 2:7 Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?*
3. Blasphemy disrespecting God and religion and sacred things. It is treating them like common things. The name of Jehovah is sacred and must be used carefully.
4. We can go too far with this. The Jews did. They quit using the term, 'Jehovah', and instead called Jehovah 'the Lord'. They did this lest they might unintentionally blaspheme His holy name.
5. Most of our modern Bibles do this as well. When we see Lord in all capital letters (**LORD**) it is the name of God, Jehovah. God did not intend for men to not use His name, only that they use it properly.
6. Cursing is also condemned in scripture. Modern cursing and swearing is using filthy and blasphemous words. Cursing in the Bible is, *'a prayer for injury, harm, or misfortune to befall someone'* —Nelson's Bible Dictionary.
7. *Gen 9:24-25 So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him. 25 Then he said: "Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brethren."*
8. When we 'damn' someone or ask God to do so we are cursing them. We are wishing evil to befall them. While this was common in the O.T. we are not to do this today.
9. *James 3:8-10 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.*
10. *Matt 5:43-45 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."*
11. We see that we should bless instead of curse. We should wish well for all, even those who do ill to us. This is hard. However we see it can be done.
12. *Luke 23:34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.*
13. *Acts 7:60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep."*
14. Jesus is our great example of forgiveness and blessing those who persecute us. Stephen is another. Paul prayed for his enemies and tried to convert them.
15. We need to have this calm, loving attitude instead of a mean, vicious, hateful one.

- C. Blasphemy and cursing and using holy word in an unclean manner is filthy language and should be avoided.

III. Some words are known to be filthy

- A. We must watch what we talk about and the words we use.
1. *Col 3:8-10 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,*
 2. Paul gives a list of sins that were part of the old man of sin. These were to be put off and a new life put on. Wicked is to be put off and we then live righteously. We have talked about blasphemy. Insulting God and holy things is wrong.
 3. Paul then mentions filthy or fowl language. We should not talk about those things that are obscene. And we should not use words that are obscene.
 4. *James 1:21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.*
 5. We are to lay aside **all filthiness**. This is obscene behavior and language. We must instead let the word of God save our souls by directing our behavior.
 6. We say of some people, "They can curse like a sailor!" This means their language is very filthy. This is not a compliment. Certain words are known to be 'dirty words'. We should not use them.
 7. *Eph 5:3-4 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.*
- B. Instead of filthy language we should use words of edification.
1. *Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*
 2. *Prov 31:26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness.*
 3. We are not to use fowl and corrupt words. These are words that are critical and derogatory and filthy. They should not be a part of the language of the child of God.
 4. Instead we are to have the law of kindness on our tongues. We are to speak words that edify or build up our hearers. This is the kind of language we use if we are to be the right example to the world.
 5. *Matt 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*
- C. We see how important it is to not use filthy language.

Conclusion; Society has become less pure in recent years.

- A. We must not let it affect our behavior and speech.
1. Everyone must make their own choice. We cannot make the choice for others. We cannot decide for others that they will cease using unclean language.
 2. *Rev 22:11 "He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still."*
 3. We must make our own choice. Are we holy and righteous? Or are we filthy and unjust? Each of us must examine our own hearts and lives.
- B. We begin to be holy and righteous by becoming a Christian.
1. We become a Christian by believing in Jesus Christ and repenting of our sins. We are then buried with Him in baptism to have our sins washed away.
 2. *Mark 16:15-16 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."*

3. *Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*
4. *Acts 22:16 'And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'*
5. See also Romans 6:3-7, Acts 8:35-39, 17:30-31, 1 Pet :21, etc.

C. Can we help anyone obey the Gospel?