

Respectable Sins

Turning Up the Heat on Sins that Fly Under the Radar

Cursing, Profanity, and Course Jesting

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, February 20, 2011

Four Steps to think through as you decide what kind of words should be coming out of your mouth.

I. Your Mouth and Your Words are at the Top of God's List for What Matters Most!

James ch. 3:6-10

“Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man...” **Matthew 15:17–20**

II. You Can't Just Make a 'Hit List' of Words to Avoid Because We'll Never All Agree on What Belongs on that List

“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**

Taking God's name in vain is not in question. That's a clear violation of the 3rd command, so using 'Jesus Christ' or 'O my God!' is clearly out of bounds. I don't think with text and Facebook you should be using the abbreviation 'OMG.'

- How do you choose your words?
- How do you determine what is vulgar and crude... and to whom?

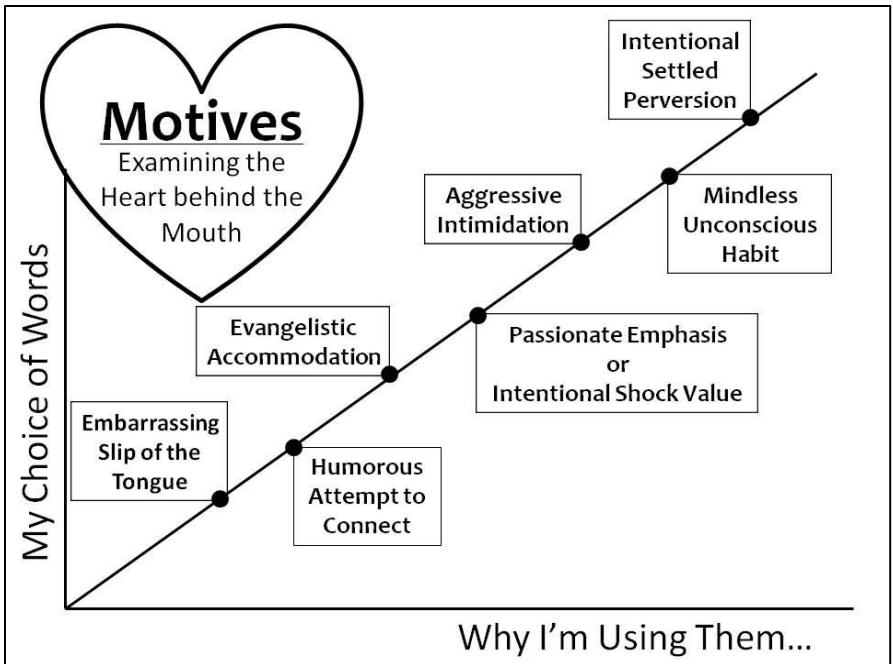
1. Consider your audience, if you're the speaker.
2. Consider your own heart—as well as the final judgment—if you're the one listening.

Romans 14:1-10

III. Look Past the Words and Start with the Heart

“... For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.”

Matthew 12:34-36



1) An Embarrassing and Unintentional Slip of the Tongue

Proverbs 23:7 “As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.”

Proverbs 4:23 “Guard your heart with all diligence, for out of it flows the issues of life.”

2) Humorous or Light-Hearted Attempts to ‘Connect’ with People

“What gets me into trouble is my humor. It is what keeps me sane... So for me, telling jokes and being light-hearted is my way of coping with stress. But sometimes when I get overly stressed, my mouth and anger gets me into trouble. My tone, my attitude and my mouth are indicators of how closely I walk with Jesus. I have come to realize that I speak for more than just Mark Driscoll. I speak for Jesus. I know I can't be this foul-mouthed, gunslinger for Jesus. I still think strong language and a prophetic edge is appropriate. But shock-jock language isn't.”

-Driscoll, in an interview with Ed Stetzer

3) Evangelistic Accommodation

“To the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.”

1 Corinthians 9:22–23

4) Passionate Emphasis or Intentional Shock Value

5) Aggressive Intimidation or Bullying

6) Mindless, Unconscious Habit

2 Peter 2:14 "... They have a heart trained in covetous practices..."

Hebrews 5:14 "... those who by who by constant use have trained themselves to discern both good and evil."

Jeremiah 9:5 "... they have taught their tongue to speak lies."

7) Intentional and Settled Perversion

2 Timothy 3:1-4; Romans 1:28-31

IV. Set Some Biblical Principles as Rudders that are Going to Guide Your Speech - Eph. 4:17 - 5:20

"Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear."
Ephesians 4:29

"Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving."
Ephesians 5:4

A spirit of thankfulness is so at odds with a spirit of coarse jesting that when one rises, the other falls. And a spirit that really wants to build others up is so at odds with foul talk that when one rises... the other falls.

- So what's the remedy?
 - (1) Gratitude to God
 - (2) Building up or Loving Others