

What Does The Bible Say About Cursing?

by John Hines

“What does the Bible say about cursing? Sometimes we are tempted to think “Well, they’re just words” and yes that is certainly true, they are words, but what Jesus teaches us is “For every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned” (Matt 12:36-37). So, rather than thinking they are “just words”, what sort of things might we consider?

We are to be imitators of God, not the world. In Ephesians 5 we read that “filthiness”, “foolish talking”, and “jesting” are all not fitting for us as that Lord’s saints. This does not mean a joke is sinful, but some jokes certainly are! Some speech is just vulgar. Some speech is just foolishness. Some speech is just filthy and in the same context we read the scripture’s warning “*Let no one deceive you with empty words*” (Eph. 5:6).

“**Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth**” (Eph. 4:29). Our speech is to be seasoned with grace, giving those around us what they need to be built up in the Lord and for the Lord. There is all manner of “evil speaking”. It could be crude or rude. If we are going to be imitators of God and children of light, if we are going to no longer walk as the world walks, then we are going to have to learn from Christ and put away all lewdness, renewing our minds. Our speech will change if we’ll do that.

“*Put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth*” (Col. 3:8). We have to set our mind on things above. We have to put ourselves to death, denying ourselves. Our new man can be renewed, but he is only renewed “*in knowledge*”. Read Colossians 3:1-8). Christians are called to be different, made in the image of the Lord.

Rather than cursing and swearing, we should be filled with kindness and mercy. We should be longsuffering with one another. Our hearts and our minds should be filled with love. If we will learn from the Lord, then the peace of God will rule in our hearts. If the word of Christ dwells in us, if we will keep that word that has been sown, it will grow and grow to the glory of God. Our speech says a good bit about us. It tells the Lord, and others, whether we are thankful, humble, submissive, loving, and obedient.

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