

Out Of The Heart The Mouth Speaks

By Paul Jetter, Pastor of Upper Valley Community Church, Piqua, Ohio
<http://www.uvcc.info>



A young lady borrowed her father's car for a date. Unfortunately, she slipped off the icy road and severely damaged it. The next day her boyfriend inquired, "What did your Dad say about our accident?"

"Do you want me to leave out the bad words?" she asked.

"Yes," he answered.

"He didn't say anything," she replied.

It is unfortunate that some persons' vocabularies are so limited that they cannot express themselves except through swear words. God made humans as rational, intelligent beings. He must be terribly disappointed when they revert to primitive speech in their interpersonal relationships.

How we speak reveals what is in our heart. Jesus said, *"The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that men will have to give an account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned"* (Matthew 12:35-57).

In 1996, a TV news program interviewer asked Billy Graham about Richard Nixon. "What shocked me most was the language he used on the tapes," Graham replied. "I had never heard him use such filth. It must have been an indication of how his heart really was, for *'out of the heart the mouth speaketh'*" (Matthew 12:34).

Many people complain that the world has become full of hatred, indifference, and selfishness. However, many of these same people think nothing of slipping a few swear words into their vocabulary or of describing others with harsh, angry terms.

But the fact is, the world will only become a gentler, kinder place when the words that permeate our homes, schools, work sites, shopping malls, and streets become kinder, gentler words.

The Apostle Paul once wrote, *"But among you there must not even be a hint of...any kind of impurity.... Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk, or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving"* (Ephesians 5:3-4).

The book of James warns us, *"Above all, my brothers, do not swear – not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your 'Yes' be yes, and your 'No' be no, or you will be condemned"* (James 5:12).

What James is saying is that we should not have to punctuate our speaking with harsh or vulgar language in order to get our point across. Instead we are to *"speak the word of truth in love"* (Ephesians 4:15).

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