



# The Country Preacher's Newsletter

<http://www.countrypreacher.com/pdf/newsltr.pdf>

## Euphemistically Speaking

By Randall F. Matheny

James said, "...*If any man offend not in word the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body (Jas. 3:2),*" and, "...*the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and is set on fire of hell (Jas. 3:6).*" Life would certainly be more enjoyable for many of us if we would but learn to master our tongues, that is, learn to control our speech. Interestingly, the Bible teaches that our speech is related in some way to virtually every other aspect of our lives: Personal and spiritual relationships are influenced, strengthened or weakened by our speech habits and practices (Col. 4:6; 2 Tim. 1:13; Tit. 2:8), even our own inward, personal state of being is not left untouched, because who we are inside is invariably manifested outwardly by our speech (Lk. 6:45). In other words, our speech is in direct

relationship to what we think of others, ourselves and God. An accurate summary of James' statements would be, "Master your tongue and master yourself."

The use of expletives, cursing, slang and generally foul language has permeated our literature and language to the extent that many people seem to be unable to communicate without them. While the use of this type of language indicates lack of self control, difficulty in self expression and an inadequate vocabulary, it has become so

**Our manner of speech tells more about who we really are than nearly anything else.**

commonplace that it is mistakenly thought to be "normal." The rejection of this ungodly communication by most Christians is to be applauded and encouraged. However, even Christians who would not overtly curse must be on the lookout for euphemisms, which are probably even more common. A euphemism is a weak oath that is defined as: "Substitution of a mild or roundabout word or expression for another felt to be too blunt or painful." Weak oaths

are feeble attempts to camouflage stronger, deeper, darker feelings. What does one really mean when he says, "gosh-darn," "gee," or "shoot?" Most modern dictionaries will show that these are substitutes for much stronger oaths. What about when the names of God and the Lord Jesus are invoked in an oath? Is this fit communication for the child of God? Or, is it evidence that the one who so speaks is like those of Matthew 23:27-28, full of inward corruption?

Let us remember that our speech is a tool by which the gospel is spread and that it is not to be that "*Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing (James 3:10a).*" Our manner of speech tells more about who we really are than nearly anything else. Let us each endeavor to master our tongues, be mature and be in control!

• • •

## A Glorious Church

By Randall F. Matheny

When you hear the word "church," what immediately comes to mind? If popular culture is any indication of what people think, it would

seem that opinions run from “fundamentalist fanatics” to senseless, silly social organizations. “Church,” and Christianity by implication, is made the subject of jokes, but should be the last thing people would joke about (Eph. 5:4). Those who reject personal accountability and responsibility make it the scapegoat for society’s problems, when in reality the true church is a sinful world’s only city of refuge and is the sole promoter of the only influence that makes this world a place worth living in (Mat. 5:13-16). What would this world be like without the church and gospel of Christ which it proclaims? Can you even imagine living in a world where Christianity has had absolutely no influence? The very thought makes one shudder.

The New Testament presents a picture of a glorious church (Eph. 5:27) that is in stark contrast to popular opinion. Peter speaks of the church as “...a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people (1 Pet. 2:9).” Jesus compares the church and its worth with a “...treasure hidden in a field,” and “...a pearl of great price (Mat. 13:44-46)” worth more than all the riches of the world combined. Several things account for the worth of the church of Christ: (1) Its worth is based on what God was willing to give and Jesus was

willing to pay for it, the life and blood of Jesus (Eph. 5:25; Acts 2:28). (2) The church is the dwelling place of the Spirit of God (1 Cor. 3:16-17) and He who dwells in the church dwells in the Christians who constitute the church (1 Cor. 6:19-20). (3) The church is the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18). (4) The church is the house of God (1 Tim. 3:15). (5) The church has in trust and is commissioned to teach God’s power to save (2 Cor. 4:7; Rom. 10:13-18; Rom. 1:16). (6) The church, by its existence and mission, has the singular responsibility of making known to the world the manifold wisdom of God according to His eternal purpose in Christ (Eph. 3:10-11). (7) The church is composed of the saved (Acts 2:47), who have been redeemed by the blood of Christ (1 Pet. 1:18-19). (8) Members of the church of Christ are members of His body (1 Cor. 6:15; 12:27; Eph. 5:30). (9) The church is the bride of Christ (2 Cor. 11:2). (10) The divine destiny of the church is to occupy eternity in heaven with the Father and the Son (1 Cor. 15:24; Rev. 21:22-27; 22:1-5, 14). All of these verses present a glorious church beyond value, to which any truly grateful person would be honored to be added to by the Lord (Acts 2:47).

Paul reflected a true appreciation for the worth of the church and the Lord who bought it when he said, “But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ (Phil. 3:7; also vv. 8-11),” and “...besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches (2 Cor. 11:28),” and “I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls... (2 Cor. 12:15a).” When you hear the word “church,” what immediately comes to mind?

• • •

Visit

**Countrypreacher.com**

And the home page for the church of Christ, Warren, Pennsylvania.

Check out the Country Preacher’s links to:

**West Virginia Christian**  
and  
**Gospel Gazette Online**

**Subscribe and Unsubscribe Information**

To subscribe, send an e-mail message to: <newsletter@countrypreacher.com> with the word “Subscribe,” without quotation marks, in the Subject field. To unsubscribe, send an e-mail message with the word “Unsubscribe,” without the quotation marks, in the subject field.

Edited by  
Randall F. Matheny  
PO Box 911  
Warren, PA 16365-0911