

Introduction: The Bible encourages us to be careful about the **quantity** of our speech. **Proverbs 10:19:** “In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips *is* wise.” The more you speak, the more vulnerable you are to committing sin and saying something you wish you hadn’t.

Profanity (the use of filthy, foul, coarse words) adds unnecessary **quantity** to our speech. It also adversely affects the **quality** of our speech. The Bible has much to say concerning the **quality** of our speech:

- **Proverbs 8:6-8:** *Listen, for I will speak of excellent things, And from the opening of my lips will come right things; ⁷ For my mouth will speak truth; Wickedness is an abomination to my lips. ⁸ All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; nothing crooked or **perverse** is in them.*
- **Colossians 3:8:** *But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, **filthy language** out of your mouth.*
- **James 3:10-11:** *Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and **cursing**. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening?*

Filthy communication is to be far from us. Yet we live in a society that is plagued by profanity. As Christians we must be aware of the **stupidity of profanity, the spirit behind it, and the solution for it.**

I. The Stupidity of Profanity

When you get right down to it, profanity is really stupid. Profane words often don’t make any sense.

- “Profanity is a public announcement of stupidity. Swearing is a lax man's way of trying to be emphatic.”

II. The Spirit behind Profanity

Why do people curse? What is the spirit behind it? Jesus tells us.

- **Matthew 5:33-37:** “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’ ³⁴ But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; ³⁵ nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For **whatever is more than these is from the evil one.**”

Question: Why would Satan be interested in getting us to use profanity?

Here are four reasons:

1. Profanity desensitizes people to the reality of eternity.

Not long ago, talking about hell made an impact because people knew it was a real place. But today you hear "damn" or "hell" so frequently that those words have lost all meaning.

2. Profanity debases the human body.

The bulk of profanity deals with body parts or intimate activity. Profanity erodes our sensitivity to the marriage bond. It also causes us to forget the body is the temple of the God.

3. Profanity deflates the boldness to witness.

If Satan can get you involved in using profanity even occasionally, it will negatively affect your desire to talk to someone about Jesus.

4. Profanity demotes character.

God did not call us to speak like everyone else. He called us to be godly. The way we communicate reflects our character to others.

III. The Solution for Profanity

1. Confess it as sin.

Don't justify it by saying that everyone does it. Admit it's wrong and confess it as sin. Isaiah once confessed: *"Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips."* (Isaiah 6:5a)

2. Convert profanity to blessing.

"Bless those who curse you," Jesus said (Matthew 5:44). When someone curses you or some situation is bugging you, don't curse—but bless.

3. Confront profanity in love.

You might be in a situation where people are constantly cursing or being profane. Confront it in love. Ask God for wisdom on how to deal with the situation.

Someone once said when they heard a person taking the Lord's name in vain, they would say, *"Isn't He good? Don't you just love Him?"* Often an unsaved person doesn't realize what they're saying until after you respond to it.