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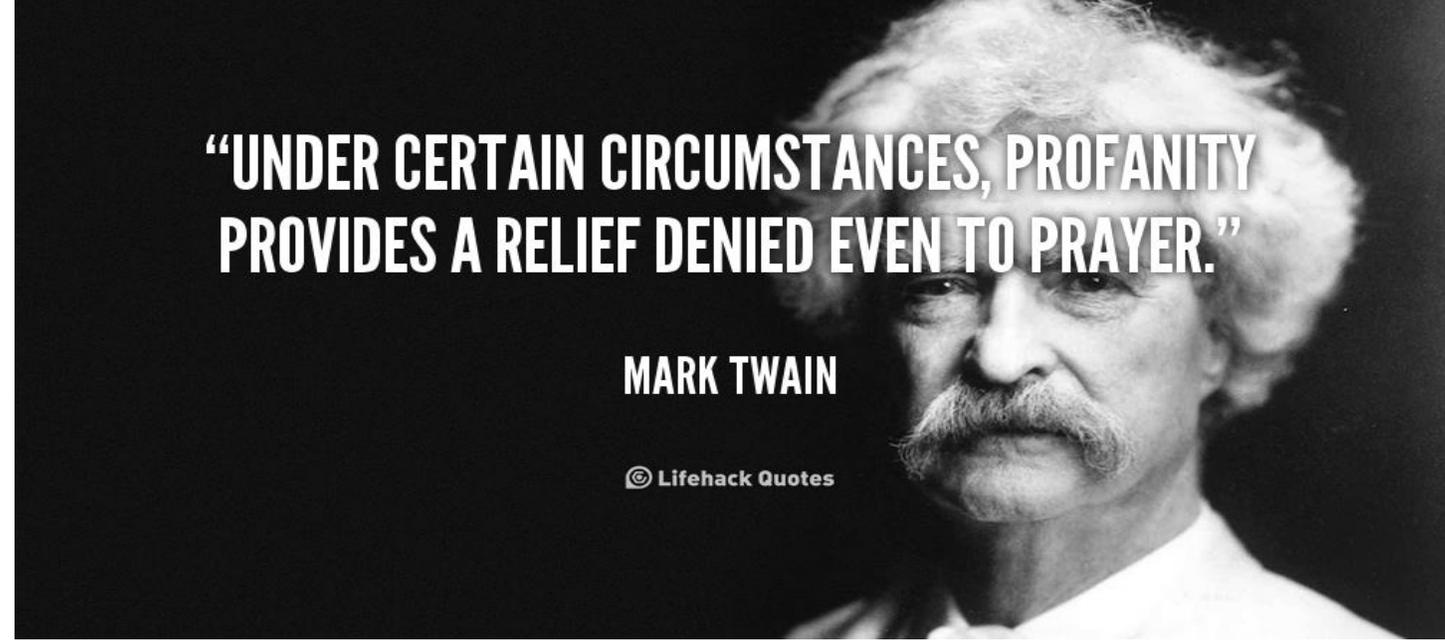
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“Pastor’s Bible Study”

“WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT PROFANITY”



“UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, PROFANITY
PROVIDES A RELIEF DENIED EVEN TO PRAYER.”

MARK TWAIN

© Lifehack Quotes

Tuesday, November 20, 2018
6:30 pm

Bible Study

I. PROFANITY: CLARIFYING THE ISSUE

- A. None of the “curse, cuss, swear” words we use today are found in the Bible in the same context.
- B. The main basis of “swearing” is verbal and emotional emphasis and expression. Not what you say, but how you say it.
- C. “Ass” is the main word used in the Bible (KJV) that we would term a “cuss” word, but in reality it has a different biblical meaning (Gen. 22:3; Ex. 20:17; Num. 22:21ff). “Damned, damnation” and “bastard” are also used extensively in the KJV of the Bible.

- Ass, asses - animal

Genesis 12:16 - And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he **asses**, and menservants, and maidservants, and she **asses**, and camels.

Genesis 22:3 - And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his **ass**, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

Genesis 22:5 - And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the **ass**; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

Genesis 24:35 - And the LORD hath blessed my master greatly; and he is become great: and he hath given him flocks, and herds, and silver, and gold, and menservants, and maidservants, and camels, and **asses**.

Genesis 30:43 - And the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and **asses**.

Genesis 32:5 - And I have oxen, and **asses**, flocks, and menservants, and womenservants: and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find grace in thy sight.

Genesis 32:15 - Thirty milch camels with their colts, forty kine, and ten bulls, twenty she **asses**, and ten foals.

Genesis 34:28 - They took their sheep, and their oxen, and their **asses**, and that which was in the city, and that which was in the field,

Genesis 36:24 - And these are the children of Zibeon; both Ajah, and Anah: this was that Anah that found the mules in the wilderness, as he fed the **asses** of Zibeon his father.

Genesis 42:26 - And they laded their **asses** with the corn, and departed thence.

Genesis 42:27 - And as one of them opened his sack to give his **ass** provender in the inn, he espied his money; for, behold, it was in his sack's mouth.

Genesis 43:18 - And the men were afraid, because they were brought into Joseph's house; and they said, Because of the money that was returned in our sacks at the first time are we brought in; that he may seek occasion against us, and fall upon us, and take us for bondmen, and our **asses**.

Genesis 43:24 - And the man brought the men into Joseph's house, and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their **asses** provender.

Genesis 44:3 - As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away, they and their **asses**.

Genesis 44:13 - Then they rent their clothes, and laded every man his **ass**, and returned to the city.

Genesis 45:23 - And to his father he sent after this manner; ten **asses** laden with the good things of Egypt, and ten she **asses** laden with corn and bread and meat for his father by the way.

Genesis 47:17 - And they brought their cattle unto Joseph: and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for horses, and for the flocks, and for the cattle of the herds, and for the **asses**: and he fed them with bread for all their cattle for that year.

Genesis 49:11 - Binding his foal unto the vine, and his **ass's** colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes:

Genesis 49:14 - Issachar is a strong **ass** couching down between two burdens:

Exodus 4:20 - And Moses took his wife and his sons, and set them upon an **ass**, and he returned to the land of Egypt: and Moses took the rod of God in his hand.

Exodus 9:3 - Behold, the hand of the LORD is upon thy cattle which is in the field, upon the horses, upon the **asses**, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep: there shall be a very grievous murrain.

Exodus 13:13 - And every firstling of an **ass** thou shalt redeem with a lamb; and if thou wilt not redeem it, then thou shalt break his neck: and all the firstborn of man among thy children shalt thou redeem.

Exodus 20:17 - Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his **ass**, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Exodus 21:33 - And if a man shall open a pit, or if a man shall dig a pit, and not cover it, and an ox or an **ass** fall therein;

Exodus 22:4 - If the theft be certainly found in his hand alive, whether it be ox, or **ass**, or sheep; he shall restore double.

Exodus 22:9 - For all manner of trespass, whether it be for ox, for **ass**, for sheep, for raiment, or for any manner of lost thing which another challengeth to be his, the cause of both parties shall come before the judges; and whom the judges shall condemn, he shall pay double unto his neighbour.

Exodus 22:10 - If a man deliver unto his neighbour an **ass**, or an ox, or a sheep, or any beast, to keep; and it die, or be hurt, or driven away, no man seeing it:

Exodus 23:4 - If thou meet thine enemy's ox or his **ass** going astray, thou shalt surely bring it back to him again.

Exodus 23:5 - If thou see the **ass** of him that hateth thee lying under his burden, and wouldest forbear to help him, thou shalt surely help with him.

Exodus 23:12 - Six days thou shalt do thy work, and on the seventh day thou shalt rest: that thine ox and thine **ass** may rest, and the son of thy handmaid, and the stranger, may be refreshed.

Exodus 34:20 - But the firstling of an **ass** thou shalt redeem with a lamb: and if thou redeem him not, then shalt thou break his neck. All the firstborn of thy sons thou shalt redeem. And none shall appear before me empty.

Numbers 16:15 - And Moses was very wroth, and said unto the LORD, Respect not thou their offering: I have not taken one **ass** from them, neither have I hurt one of them.

Numbers 22:21 - And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his **ass**, and went with the princes of Moab.

Numbers 22:22 - And God's anger was kindled because he went: and the angel of the LORD stood in the way for an adversary against him. Now he was riding upon his ass, and his two servants were with him.

Numbers 22:23 - And the ass saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and the ass turned aside out of the way, and went into the field: and Balaam smote the ass, to turn her into the way.

Numbers 22:25 - And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall: and he smote her again.

Numbers 22:27 - And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff.

Numbers 22:28 - And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times?

Numbers 22:29 - And Balaam said unto the ass, Because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee.

Numbers 22:30 - And the ass said unto Balaam, Am not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee? and he said, Nay.

Numbers 22:32 - And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? behold, I went out to withstand thee, because thy way is perverse before me:

Numbers 22:33 - And the ass saw me, and turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive.

Numbers 31:28 - And levy a tribute unto the LORD of the men of war which went out to battle: one soul of five hundred, both of the persons, and of the beeves, and of the asses, and of the sheep:

Numbers 31:30 - And of the children of Israel's half, thou shalt take one portion of fifty, of the persons, of the beeves, of the asses, and of the flocks, of all manner of beasts, and give them unto the Levites, which keep the charge of the tabernacle of the LORD.

Numbers 31:34 - And threescore and one thousand asses,

Numbers 31:39 - And the asses were thirty thousand and five hundred; of which the LORD'S tribute was threescore and one.

Numbers 31:45 - And thirty thousand asses and five hundred,

Deuteronomy 5:14 - But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou.

Deuteronomy 5:21 - Neither shalt thou desire thy neighbour's wife, neither shalt thou covet thy neighbour's house, his field, or his manservant, or his maidservant, his ox, or his ass, or any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Deuteronomy 22:3 - In like manner shalt thou do with his ass; and so shalt thou do with his raiment; and with all lost thing of thy brother's, which he hath lost, and thou hast found, shalt thou do likewise: thou mayest not hide thyself.

Deuteronomy 22:4 - Thou shalt not see thy brother's ass or his ox fall down by the way, and hide thyself from them: thou shalt surely help him to lift them up again.

Deuteronomy 22:10 - Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an **ass** together.

Deuteronomy 28:31 - Thine ox shall be slain before thine eyes, and thou shalt not eat thereof: thine **ass** shall be violently taken away from before thy face, and shall not be restored to thee: thy sheep shall be given unto thine enemies, and thou shalt have none to rescue them.

Joshua 6:21 -And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and **ass**, with the edge of the sword.

Joshua 7:24 - And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his **asses**, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor.

Joshua 9:4 - They did work wilily, and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks upon their **asses**, and wine bottles, old, and rent, and bound up;

Joshua 15:18 - And it came to pass, as she came unto him, that she moved him to ask of her father a field: and she lighted off her **ass**; and Caleb said unto her, What wouldest thou?

Matthew 21:2 - Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an **ass** tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me.

Matthew 21:5 - Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an **ass**, and a colt the foal of an **ass**.

Matthew 21:7 - And brought the **ass**, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon.

Luke 13:15 - The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his **ass** from the stall, and lead him away to watering?

Luke 14:5 - And answered them, saying, Which of you shall have an **ass** or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day?

John 12:14 - And Jesus, when he had found a young **ass**, sat thereon; as it is written,

John 12:15 - Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an **ass's** colt.

2 Peter 2:16 - But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb **ass** speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.

- **Damned, Damnation – condemnation, eternal punishment**

Matthew 23:14 - Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater **damnation**.

Matthew 23:33 - Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the **damnation** of hell?

Mark 3:29 - But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal **damnation**.

Mark 12:40 - Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater **damnation**.

Mark 16:16 - He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be **damned**.

Luke 20:47 - Which devour widows' houses, and for a shew make long prayers: the same shall receive greater **damnation**.

John 5:29 - And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of **damnation**.

Romans 3:8 - And not rather, (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us do evil, that good may come? whose **damnation** is just.

Romans 13:2 - Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves **damnation**.

Romans 14:23 - And he that doubteth is **damned** if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

1 Corinthians 11:29 - For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh **damnation** to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

2 Thessalonians 2:12 - That they all might be **damned** who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

1 Timothy 5:12 - Having **damnation**, because they have cast off their first faith.

2 Peter 2:1 - But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in **damnable** heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2 Peter 2:3 - And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their **damnation** slumbereth not.

- **Bastard** – a person born of parents not married to each other, an unpleasant or despicable person

Deuteronomy 23:2 - A **bastard** shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to his tenth generation shall he not enter into the congregation of the LORD.

Zechariah 9:6 - And a **bastard** shall dwell in Ashdod, and I will cut off the pride of the Philistines.

Hebrews 12:8 - But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye **bastards**, and not sons.

- D. The following words have different **BIBLICAL** definitions, even though society has given them socially-acceptable definitions.
1. **Profanity** – from the word “profane.” Mean to “treat something sacred with abuse, irreverence or contempt: desecrate, to debase by a wrong, unworthy or vulgar use.” It also means “not concerned with religion or religious purposes: secular, not holy because not consecrated, impure or defiled: unsanctified.:
 2. **Swearing** – “Voicing an oath or a vow.” God takes swearing very seriously (Lev. 19:12; Num. 30:1ff; Matthew 5:33-37)
 3. **Cursing** – “Voicing ill-will on another person or on a circumstance that God has allowed.” Also, “to bind or render powerless.”
 4. **Cussing** – Also called ‘vulgar speech.’ “Voicing the sacred as common.”
- E. The common, acceptable vernacular of the times usually determines the level of acceptability of a word.

1. Over 160 years ago, the following words were considered filthy, cussing and profane: hang it, dog-gone, gol-dang, gosh-darn, dad-burned, blasted, dang-it, holy moley.
2. Today, the following words are common to our language, yet considered lude, vulgar and profane in most circles. None of them have an “official” definition: f*ck, c*nt, fart, a*shole, sh*thead, mother-f*cker, c*cksucker, d*ck, c*ck, p*ssy, etc.

II. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

- A. There is no verse which specifically says that cussing, cursing and swearing **as we know it and do it** is wrong. What must be looked at are the principles and reasons behind the use of these words.
- B. Biblical Principles to consider:
 1. What we say and how we say it has the power to hurt others as well as ourselves.
 2. What we say and how we say it has the power to heal/help others as well as ourselves.
 3. The language we use reveals the condition of the heart.
 4. We should respect those things and those people that the Bible holds as sacred. God, sex, hell, damnation, salvation, etc. deserve reverent, respectful discussion.

C. Passages That Support the Principles

Psalm 141:3 - Set a guard over my mouth, LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.

Proverbs 12:22 - The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.

Proverbs 4:24 - Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips.

Proverbs 15:1 - A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 20:19 - A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid anyone who talks too much.

Proverbs 21:23 - Those who guard their mouths and their tongues keep themselves from calamity.

Matthew 12:36 - If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?

Matthew 15:17-20 - “Don’t you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? ¹⁸ But the things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.”

Luke 6:43-45 - ⁴³ “No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. ⁴⁴ Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. ⁴⁵ A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

Ephesians 4:25-29 - Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ “In your anger do not sin”^[d]: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to

share with those in need. ²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Ephesians 5:3-7 - But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. ⁴ Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. ⁵ For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.^[a] ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. ⁷ Therefore do not be partners with them.

Colossians 4:5-6 - ⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

James 3:6-12 - ⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷ All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ¹¹ Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

D. Why Using Profanity Is “Wrong” - BibleSprout

1. **God says cursing and filthy language is wrong because** it lowers His holy name to the level of sinful man.
2. **God says cursing is wrong because** it destroys the sacredness of the human body.
3. **Jesus Christ never swore or cursed.**

III. WHAT ABOUT PETER?

A. Matthew 26:69-75, Mark 14:66-72

IV. THINGS TO REMEMBER

- God clearly condemns cursing, using rough language, filthy jokes, swearing, and frivolous words.
- We should refuse to watch television shows, movies, or listen to songs laced with profanity.
- We need to make a commitment to hold our tongues and speak wholesome words, not filthy cussing. We should also abstain from filthy music, television, and friends who use this language regularly.

“Profanity is the inevitable linguistic crutch of the inarticulate”

Author Unknown