

Euphemisms

Dirty Talk in Disguise

Euphemisms

- “As societies grow decadent, the language grows decadent, too. Words are used to disguise, not to illuminate. Words are to confuse, so that at election time people will solemnly vote against their own interests.”
(Gore Vidal)
- “Euphemisms hide, erase, coat. Euphemisms lead us to tolerate the unacceptable; and, eventually, to forget evil.” *(Valeria Luiselli)*

Are Slang Words Or Euphemisms Wrong?

- They are used in place of what is generally recognized as “bad words.”
- They are mocked as the Shirley Temples of swearing.
- They are frequently used by Christians.

Are Slang Words Or Euphemisms Wrong?

- There are three kinds of corrupt speech:
 - Obscene - sexually related corrupt speech,
 - Profane - religiously related corrupt speech,
 - Vulgar - elimination related corrupt speech.
- Eph. 4:29 - “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”

Are Slang Words Or Euphemisms Wrong?

- There are three ways in which people use profane speech:
 - Uttering a curse on someone or something,
 - Matt. 5:22 - “But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.”

Are Slang Words Or Euphemisms Wrong?

- There are three ways in which people use profane speech:
 - Using God's name in vain,
 - Ex. 20:7 - "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain"

Are Slang Words Or Euphemisms Wrong?

- There are three ways in which people use profane speech:
 - Utilizing something God made holy and making it common.
 - Eph. 5:3-4 - “But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.”

What Are Euphemisms?

- “Fib,” “stretching the truth,” do you understand it means telling a lie?
- “Affair,” “fling,” do you understand it means adultery?
- “Living together,” “in a relationship,” do you understand it means fornication?
- “Gay,” do you understand it means homosexual?
- “Heard the latest?” do you understand it means gossip?
- “Risqué,” do you understand it means immodest?
- “Off color,” “colorful language” do you understand it means dirty jokes and cursing?
- “Had a little too much,” do you understand it means drunk?

What Are Euphemisms?

- You know what euphemisms are, you know what they mean, and you know what the speaker intended with them.
- A euphemism is using a word that doesn't sound as bad as the one that most consider offensive, but the meaning of the word is the same.

So, What Do You Mean When You Use Euphemisms?

- Gosh, golly - God
- Jeez, gee - Jesus
- Crikey, crimeny - Christ
- Heck - hell
- Dang, darn - damn
- And so on... and these are just some of the ones for profane corrupt speech, to say nothing about the ones for vulgar and obscene speech
- No one says “What in Allah’s name is going on?” No one texts “OMB” for “Oh My Buddha!” You intend to say God.

God's Standard For Christian Speech

- The standards of God are much different than those of the world.
 - Isa. 55:8-9 - “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.”

God's Standard For Christian Speech

- The world thinks lightly of profane speech calling it free speech.
- Jesus taught us to take all speech seriously.
 - Matt. 12:36-37 - “But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. 37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

God's Standard For Christian Speech

- Speech is important because it reveals the hearts of human beings.
 - Matt. 12:34-35 - “Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.
35 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.”

God's Standard For Christian Speech

- Words are important because they manifest Christian conduct.
 - Col. 3:8-10 - “But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.”

God's Standard For Christian Speech

- What standards do you have in speech?
 - Do you cringe when you hear the filthy language used on television?
 - Would you be embarrassed to use those words in front of your grandmother or mother?
 - How do you speak when you are not in church services?

God's Standard For Christian Speech

- God despises a perverse mouth.
 - Prov. 4:24 - “Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you.”
 - Prov. 8:13 - “The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.”
 - Prov. 15:28 - “The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.”

God's Standard For Christian Speech

- Christians control their speech.
 - James 1:26 - “If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.”

God's Standard For Christian Speech

- So, you expressed your surprise or anger and used substitute expletives, exercising your American right to free speech.
- You edified no one, reduced your influence, harmed your hearers, and put souls at risk, including your own.
- Feel better?

Euphemisms: Dirty Talk in Disguise

- “If there is one place we should begin, it is with a resolve to not conceal sins, to not seal ourselves off from people's suffering by burying it under a mountain of speech. Euphemisms are an attempt to find pleasant words for an ugly reality, and in doing so, they allow their users to avoid feeling guilty or uncomfortable.” (*Nathan Robinson*)
- Col. 4:6 - “Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”