

Coarse Speech
Ephesians 5:4
*“and there must be no filthiness
and silly talk,
or coarse jesting,
which are not fitting,
but rather giving of thanks.”*

I was shocked to hear the speaker casually exclaim - “*One of the first things our applicants need to learn is that it is Hell out there!*” I was sitting in on a meeting as a consultant with a large international para-church mission organization and the statement caught me completely off guard. In fact I was so surprised that I asked several during the break to confirm it. More and more I see this, Christians using coarse language to show that they are “real”, that they live in the “real world”. This however was never Jesus’ plan for His ministers. He prayed in John 17:15-17 *“I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”* Jesus’ prayer is that we would be in the world, yet in doing so we would be a contrast to the world and this includes our speech. That as Jesus was in the world but not of the world so we would imitate His example. Our speech would be sanctified by the Word of God, not conformed to the world’s callous sophistication.

When I became a Christian one of the first things the Lord got a hold of was my speech. The profanity, the dirty jokes, the coarse terms, these became an embarrassment to me. And when I did slip, the high standards of the church shed such light on the inappropriate word or misspoken phrase that the sheer contrast and embarrassed silence of those around me served as a check and discipline in the sanctification of my speech. What a shame that in the church today and in many Christian organizations coarse phrases, questionable jokes, and outright filthy terms are not met with correction but rather seen as maturity and sophistication. That the corrective iron sharpening of fellowship is replaced by the coarseness of leadership.

As we examine our speech we must consider several areas...

First: **Profanity** – this is the profane misuse of the name of God in a casual or inappropriate way. Whether it be the name of Jesus, God, Christ or any other term associated with the Holy Trinity we do not blurt out, “Oh God” or “Sweet Jesus” or “Jesus Christ” when we are startled, surprised, stub our toe or for any other reason that worshipful prayer or confession of sin.

Second: **Cursing** – this is the calling down of God’s holy wrath. The use of the word damn, God damn, damnation, Hell or any other curse in anger, irreverence, coarseness or coarse jesting is forbidden by God.

Third: **Filthiness** – this is the open use of terms associated with human or animal feces, waste, human by products, a woman’s menstrual cycle, sexual organs or sexual acts in a public and harsh manner. That is not to say that the items in this list are inherently sinful but it is sinful to use slang terms to degrade your speech by flippantly casting about coarse phrases for the purpose of shock, insult or crudeness.

Fourth: **Coarseness** – even if the most vulgar of the above terms are not used, there are many coarse terms which comprise a secondary level. Many who would never use the most crass term for human or animal feces will still use the secondary term of “crap”. Many who will not use the filthy primary terms of sexually activity will still use crass and coarse terms such as “suck” or “screw you”. God however calls both the filthy and the coarse for what it is – sin.

Fifth: **Coarse Jestings and Silly Talk** – these are jokes, racial slurs, and jesting at the expense of political leaders or minority groups. We must remember that God holds us as His representative and any joke must first pass through that filter..

It should be noted that there are exceptions. For instance in a democracy satire is an acceptable form of political education and communication. In addition all terms of affection, appreciation of your spouse’s body and expressions during the mutual sexual gratification in the union of marriage are acceptable. Also blunt (Example-Galatians 5:12) and/or humorous teachings on life, marriage, family and discipleship are acceptable as long as your speech is not laced with filthy or coarse words.

It is my prayer that the following series of Daily Quiet Times Alone With God will bring you back to the standard of speech and conduct that Christ exemplified..

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JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Coarse Speech

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ephesians 5: 1 – 4 (:4)

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

When it comes to my vocabulary, jokes and expressions, how will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make my speech and expressions conform to God's standards?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Proverbs 19:1

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

When it comes to my vocabulary, jokes and expressions, how will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make my speech and expressions conform to God's standards?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Colossians 3:8

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JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Coarse Speech

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 15:15 - 20

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

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When it comes to my vocabulary, jokes and expressions, how will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make my speech and expressions conform to God's standards?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ephesians 4:29

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

When it comes to my vocabulary, jokes and expressions, how will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make my speech and expressions conform to God's standards?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: James 3:2 – 12 (:10)

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

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JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Coarse Speech

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 109:17 – 19; Revelation 13:5 & 6

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

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When it comes to my vocabulary, jokes and expressions, how will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make my speech and expressions conform to God's standards?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Exodus 20:7; Deuteronomy 5:11; Psalm 139:20

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

When it comes to my vocabulary, jokes and expressions, how will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make my speech and expressions conform to God's standards?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Romans 3:10 – 18 (:14)

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

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JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Coarse Speech

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Leviticus 19:12; James 5:12

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

When it comes to my vocabulary, jokes and expressions, how will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make my speech and expressions conform to God's standards?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Leviticus 22:32; I Timothy 1:9 & 10

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

When it comes to my vocabulary, jokes and expressions, how will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make my speech and expressions conform to God's standards?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ezekiel 36:20 -23; 39:7

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

When it comes to my vocabulary, jokes and expressions, how will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make my speech and expressions conform to God's standards?

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Coarse Speech

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ephesians 5:11 & 12

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

When it comes to my vocabulary, jokes and expressions, how will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make my speech and expressions conform to God's standards?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 12:34 – 37

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

When it comes to my vocabulary, jokes and expressions, how will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make my speech and expressions conform to God's standards?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ephesians 5:1 – 4 (:4)

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

When it comes to my vocabulary, jokes and expressions, how will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make my speech and expressions conform to God's standards?

THEME: Coarse Speech Contrasted With Christ Like Speech

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 19:14

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

When it comes to my vocabulary, jokes and expressions, how will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make my speech and expressions conform to God's standards?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 39:1

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

When it comes to my vocabulary, jokes and expressions, how will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make my speech and expressions conform to God's standards?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 141:3

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

When it comes to my vocabulary, jokes and expressions, how will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make my speech and expressions conform to God's standards?

THEME: Coarse Speech Contrasted With Christ Like Speech

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ephesians 5:11 & 12; Romans 12:2; I Peter 4:4

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

When it comes to my vocabulary, jokes and expressions, how will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make my speech and expressions conform to God's standards?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Proverbs 21:23

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

When it comes to my vocabulary, jokes and expressions, how will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make my speech and expressions conform to God's standards?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Thessalonians 5:21 & 22

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

When it comes to my vocabulary, jokes and expressions, how will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make my speech and expressions conform to God's standards?

THEME: Coarse Speech Contrasted With Christ Like Speech

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Thessalonians 4:12

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

When it comes to my vocabulary, jokes and expressions, how will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make my speech and expressions conform to God's standards?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Proverbs 22:11

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

When it comes to my vocabulary, jokes and expressions, how will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make my speech and expressions conform to God's standards?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Titus 2:7 & 8

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

When it comes to my vocabulary, jokes and expressions, how will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make my speech and expressions conform to God's standards?

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Coarse Speech

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Proverbs 31:26

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

When it comes to my vocabulary, jokes and expressions, how will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make my speech and expressions conform to God's standards?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Colossians 4:6; Ephesians 4:32

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

When it comes to my vocabulary, jokes and expressions, how will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make my speech and expressions conform to God's standards?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Peter 2:13 - 17

What does this passage teach me about the words I use, the jokes I tell and the way I express myself?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

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