

The Weight of Our Words: Measuring the Impact of What We Say

Out of the Abundance of the Heart:
Expletives Deleted

Using God's Name in Vain

- Exodus 20:7—the clear rule for using God's name in vain is “Thou shalt not.”
- The Hebrew word translated “*vain*” means emptiness, vanity, falsehood, according to *Strong's Concordance*.
- Essentially, to take God's name in vain means to use it as though it has not worth or value.
- Perhaps that's the root of our problem—we don't appreciate the real value of God's name. Too often we interpret God from our limited point of view instead of conforming our thoughts to who God says he is.

Using God's Name in Vain

- The significance of God's name must be grasped in two dimensions: 1) its significance to God, 2) its spiritual significance to us.
- First, God's name has great significance to Him because it is a revelation of his glory. His name communicates His character. It is intrinsically tied to His being.
- Exodus 3:14-15
- John 8:58—God's name revealed that He was the eternally self-sufficient One, personally identified with Israel through the patriarchs.

Using God's Name in Vain

- There are at least ten different compound names all depicting something a different attribute of God through the Old Testament.
 - JEHOVAH-JIREH = Jehovah will see, or provide. Genesis 22:14.
 - JEHOVAH-ROPHEKA = Jehovah that healeth thee. Exodus 15:26.
 - JEHOVAH-NISSI = Jehovah my banner. Exodus 17:15.
 - JEHOVAH-M^eKADDISHKEM = Jehovah that doth sanctify you. Exodus 31:13. Leviticus 20:8, 21:8, 22:32. Ezekiel 20:12.
 - JEHOVAH-SHALOM = Jehovah [send] peace. Judges 6:24.
 - JEHOVAH-Z^eBA'OTH = Jehovah of hosts. 1Samuel 1:3, and frequently.
 - JEHOVAH-ZIDKENU = Jehovah our righteousness. Jeremiah 23:6, 33:16.
 - JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH = Jehovah is there. Ezekiel 48:35.
 - JEHOVAH-'ELYON = Jehovah most high. Psalms 7:17, 47:2, 97:9.
 - JEHOVAH-RO'I = Jehovah my Shepherd. Psalms 23:1.

Using God's Name in Vain

- In the New Testament the names for Jesus are also revelatory of His character, worth, and work. The name *Christ* is the title of His Messiahship, communicating that He is the promised King and reflecting the integrity of God in keeping His promise to Israel.
- Matthew 1:23
- Matthew 6:9
- Philippians 2:9-11

Using God's Name in Vain

- Theologically speaking. God's names are not adjectives—they are nouns. His names are more than descriptive; they are substantive. Therefore, we need to give the name of God its proper respect.
- Psalm 52:9—Wait on God's Name
- Psalm 145:1-2—Bless and Praise God's Name
- Micah 4:5—Walk in the Name of the Lord
- Malachi 3:16—Esteem God's Name
- Malachi 4:2—Fear God's Name

Sensuous Speech

- Expressions of immoral, sensual speech are not compatible with our newness in Christ. Words, phrases, stories, jokes, and tales that deal with immorality are clearly renounced in Scripture.
- Ephesians 5:3-13
- In verse three Paul mentions three types of poor speech that is not becoming or fitting who we are in Jesus Christ.
 - Filthiness—literally means obscenity or anything that is opposed to purity and morality.
 - Foolish Talking—basically this language that is offensive to Christian decency. This would certainly include words that are vulgar and indecent in their connotations.
 - Jestings—is humor or joking in a bad sense. It is the light-hearted sinful speech filled with double meanings—jokes, puns, and plays on words.
- Paul says that these negative speech patterns are not convenient and are associated with the unfruitful works of darkness in verse 11.

Sensuous Speech

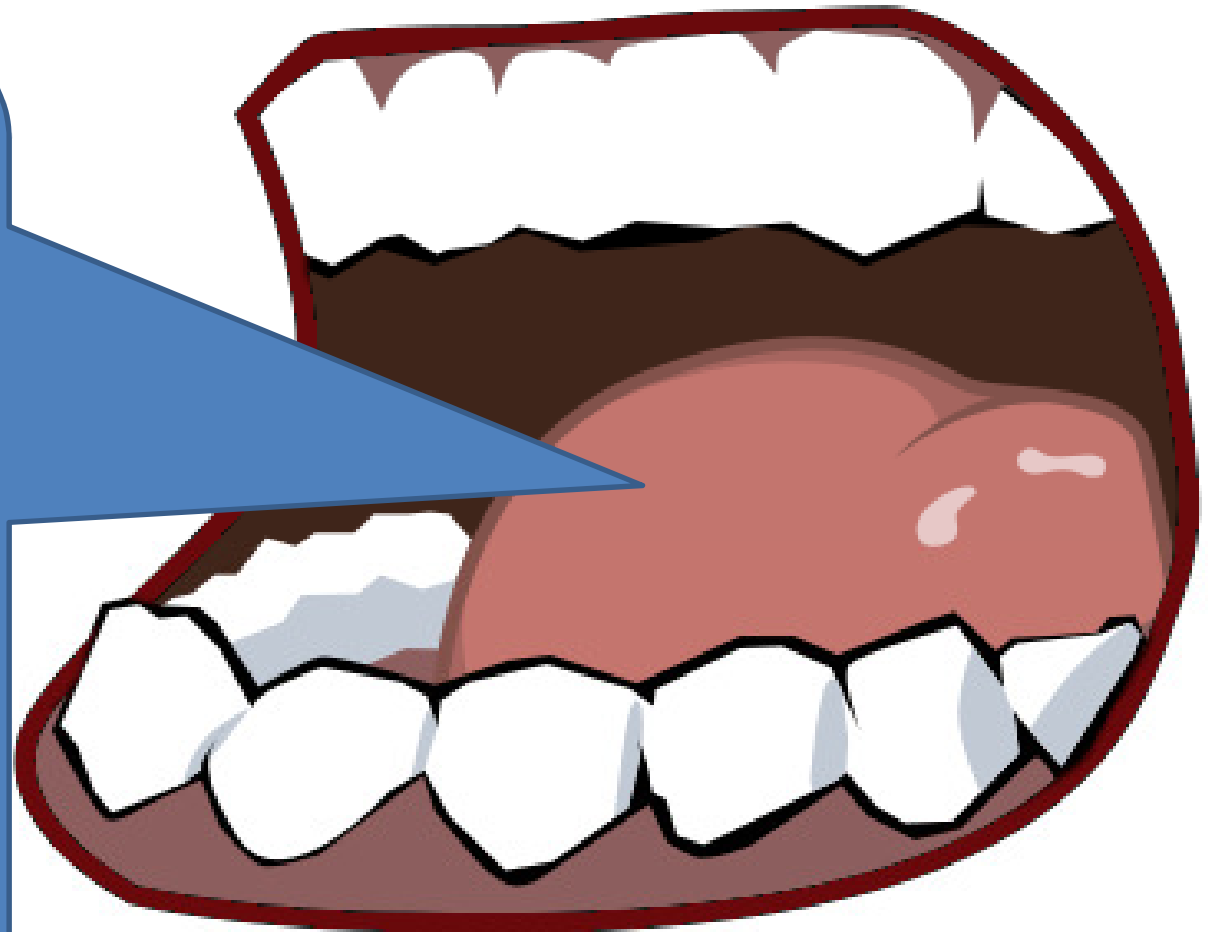
- Whenever or however sensuous speech affects believers, the harmful results are numerous:
- It neutralizes our sensitivity to moral purity.
- It contributes to a widespread sensual mind-set.
- It reflects a lack of self-control.
- It increases our vulnerability to sexual sin.
- It robs God of His glory in our speech.

Heart Talk

- Christ recognized that all talk is heart talk.
 - Matthew 12:33-37
- In fact, our words are such an accurate reflection of our spiritual condition that Christ concludes this section by saying that our words will be the basis for His judgment. Our words affirm our true inner condition.
- Romans 3:10-18—notice that after a general description of the Romans' spiritual disability, Paul specifically details the tongue as the initial manifestation of their inner worthlessness. The bottom line is simple, a sinful heart produces sinful speech.

The Proud Heart

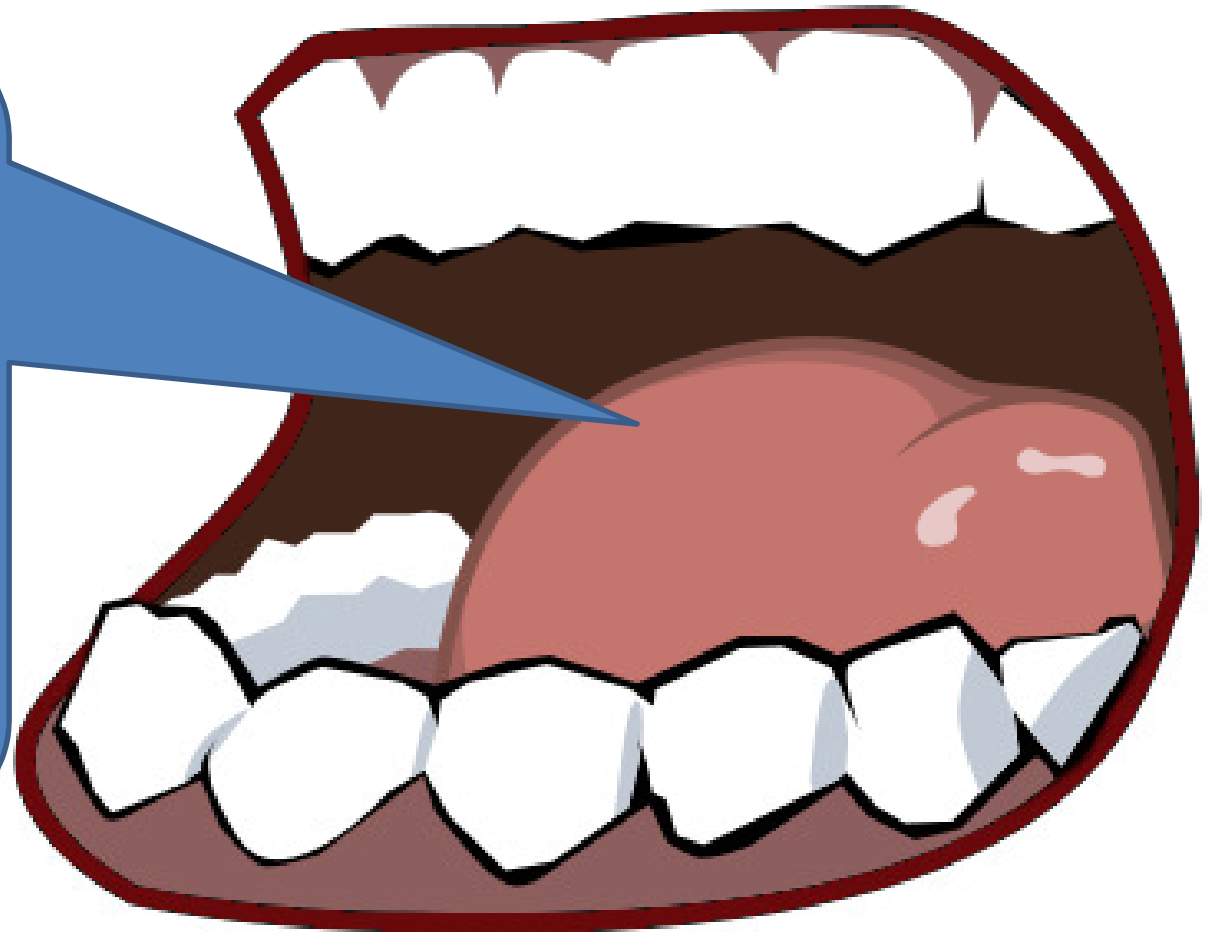
- BOASTING
- FLATTERY
- REVILING
- CURSING
- LYING
- MOCKERY
- CONTENTION
- SLANDER
- GOSSIP
- QUARRELING
- PERVERSE SPEECH
- CARELESS
OPINIONS
- ANGRY WORDS



Pride
Fool

The Angry Heart

- CONTENTIOUS WORDS
- LYING
- STRIFE
- MURMURING
- CRUEL WORDS
- REBELLIOUS WORDS
- DEFILING WORDS

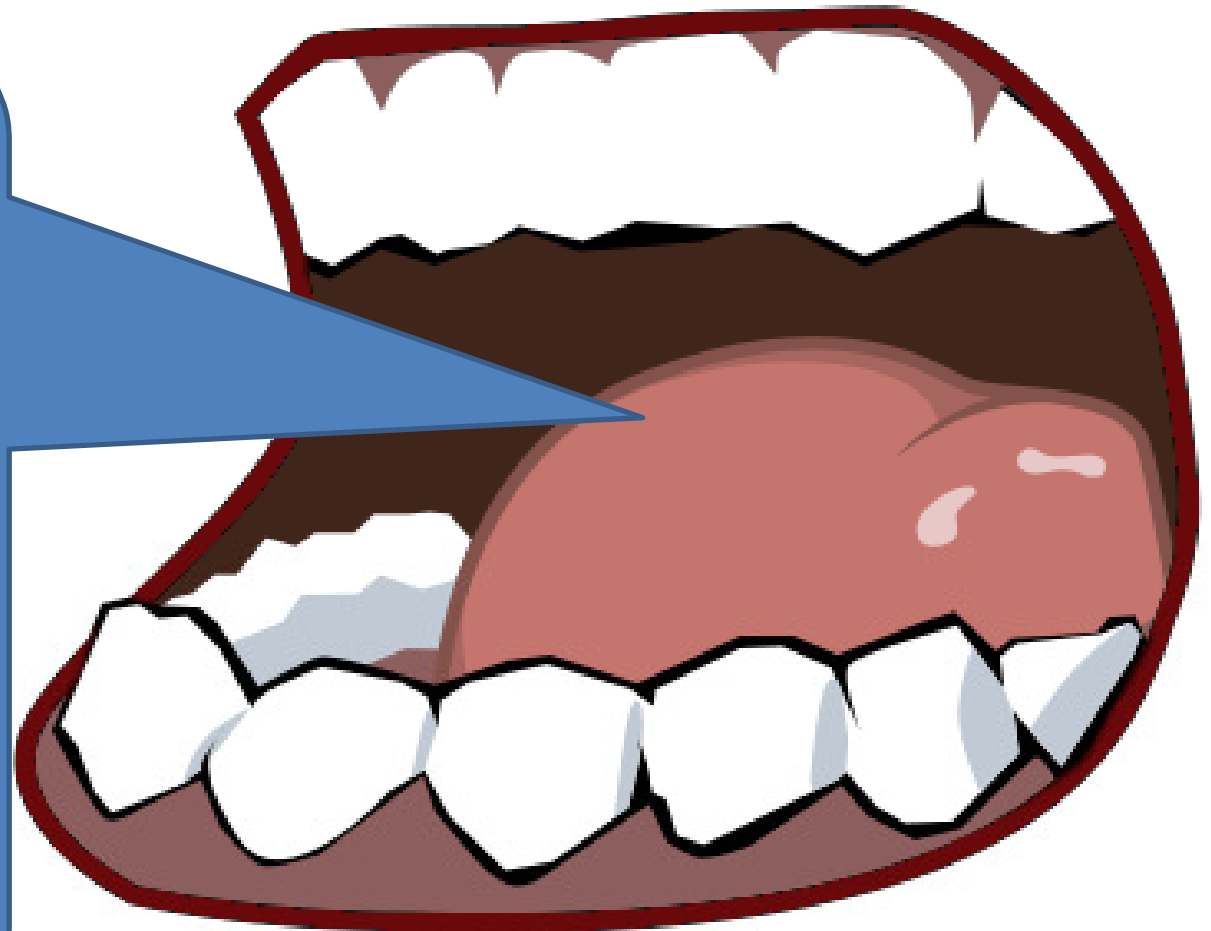


Anger

Bitterness, Hatred, Rebellion

The Fearful Heart

- LYING
- SLANDER
- MURMURING
- REBELLIOUS WORDS
- BEGUILEMENT
- ABUSIVE WORDS
- FALSE WITNESS
- DECEIT
- CURSING
- FLATTERY
- EXAGGERATION



Fear

**Insecurity, Guilt, Jealousy, Envy,
Impatience**