

WORDS OF TRUTH

A Weekly Bulletin for the Sunrise Acres church of Christ

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<http://www.wordsoftruth.net>

Edited By: *Brian A. Yeager*



Sunrise Acres CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting at:
8625 Robert Drive
El Paso, TX 79904

915-525-5794

OUR MEETING TIMES:

Sunday Bible Class: 9:45 AM
Sunday Worship: 10:55 AM

Are You Visiting With Us?

If you are visiting with us, we want to welcome you to the Lord's church (Matthew 16:18 and Colossians 1:18). Our goal is to simply get to Heaven and to help you do the same. We use the Bible as our standard to govern what we do in our work and worship for the Lord (Colossians 3:17, II Timothy 1:13, II Timothy 3:16-17, and I Peter 4:11).

We welcome your questions and would love the opportunity to study further with you. Luke recorded a fascinating statement we all need to consider: *"Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able"* (Luke 13:23-24). We invite you to join us in being one of the few that are saved!

Will You Go To Hell For Using Euphemisms?

By: *Brian A. Yeager*

Over the years I have heard sermons and I have read articles where the usage of euphemisms [*"the substitution of an agreeable or inoffensive expression for one that may offend or suggest something unpleasant"* (Webster)] has been condemned as sin. I have often shaken my head when hearing or reading about this subject, for the Holy Spirit would be condemned for some of what has been taught concerning euphemisms (which we'll get to as this article proceeds further). The usage of euphemisms has been equated to using the Lord's name in vain and "cursing" (http://gjcoc.com/S03/Purity_of_Speech_Cursing_Swearing.htm).

Brethren, we have to be cautious to not make a law where the Lord has not made one. It is just as wrong to add to God's word as it is to take from it (Deuteronomy 4:2 and Revelation 22:18-19). When doing so, we are teaching error! In fact, we will even see that the Lord Himself used euphemisms. Furthermore, we have to be cautious when accusing others of substituting a word for something that we think they meant to say. Such is not always the case. At the same time, we must also realize that though something may be lawful to say it may not be edifying or expedient at times (I Corinthians 6:12; 10:23 and Ephesians 4:29).

Let's be reminded that we have no authority to condemn others if any one of us has a matter we PERSONALLY find offensive (cf. Romans 14:1-3; 14-23 and I Timothy 4:1-4). Too often, laws are made on what people think rather than what God says. Your conscience cannot be the guide of everyone else's conscience. Many of us have been brought up in different surroundings and under different circumstances. You may hear one thing as an "offensive term" while I may not. Such is even true when someone sees "offensive terms" in the Bible for the first time. Instead of understanding the meaning of the term, sometimes people will say, "there are cuss words in the Bible". Brethren, let's not err by going too far with what we might consider to be foul language. At the same time, let's be sure to guard our tongues carefully (Proverbs 10:19; 13:3; 15:28).

This Article Is Not Intended To License Foul Speech

The word of God instructs us not to be rash with our mouths (Ecclesiastes 5:2). We should have wisdom in what is acceptable to say before we say it (Proverbs 10:13-14; 31-32). The righteous tongue is guided by wisdom from above, through the Scriptures (James 3:14-18; cf. Proverbs 2:1-5). Brethren, when we open our mouths in private or public we have to realize the Lord is listening and He will judge EVERYTHING we say (Matthew 12:34-37). Therefore, we need to know our words are right. If using a term as a substitution for something, let's be sure that is correct as well. I refuse to start a list of terms that are sinful. I cannot fathom that idea. Again, my conscience, understanding of a defined term, etc. may differ from others. Additionally, I refuse to allow our politically correct society to judge our speech. Brethren, let's leave these things to the Lord and His word! Now, let's see the Biblical authority for euphemisms.

There Is Bible Authority For The Usage of Euphemisms And For What Some Consider "Foul Language"

Notice the following: *"And Onan knew that the seed should not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in unto his brother's wife, that he spilled it on the ground, lest that he should give seed [semen; Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon] to his brother... He that is wounded in the stones, or hath his **privy member** [penis; Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon] cut off, shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD... When men strive together one with another, and the wife of the one draweth near for to deliver her husband out of the hand of him that smiteth him, and putteth forth her hand, and taketh him by the **secrets** [male genitals; Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon]... For the whole house of Ahab shall perish: and I will cut off from Ahab him that **pisseth** against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel... But Rabshakeh said unto them, Hath my master sent me to thy master, and to thee, to speak these words? hath he not sent me to the men which sit on the wall, that they may eat their own **dung**, and drink their own **piss** with you... Thus thou calledst to remembrance the lewdness of thy youth, in bruising thy **teats** [breast, nipple; Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon] by the Egyptians for the paps of thy youth... Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the **draught** [a place where the human waste discharges are dumped; Thayer's Greek - English Lexicon]... Let the husband render unto the wife due **benevolence** [**euphemistically** conjugal duty; Strong's]: and likewise also the wife unto the husband ... Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but **dung**, that I may win Christ..." (Genesis 38:9, Deuteornomy 23:1, Deuteronomy 25:11, II Kings 9:8, II Kings 18:27, Matthew 15:17, I Corinthians 7:3, and Philipians 3:8).*

We could go on and on with more examples as we have above. I shall conclude however that the goal has been reached in proving the word of God contains strong terms and euphemisms. We shouldn't need a complete list (nor could I provide one) of such terms just as we should not need of list of what to say. As Christians, we should know things such as using the Lord's name in vain is sinful (Exodus 20:7). Common sense tells us that if a word is sinful to say, we should not be thinking it to come up with a substitute for it anyway (II Corinthians 10:5).

Conclusion

Is calling someone a female dog (term I will choose not to list) sinful? If so, does God sin in using the term dog (Isaiah 56:10-11 and Matthew 7:6)? Is it always wrong to say "O my God"? Obviously not, as the phrase appears at least twenty-one times in inspiration (I Chronicles 17:25, Ezra 9:6, etc.). I often ask people, "what do you mean" when I hear something said I may think is wrong. Often, I have found what I thought they meant is not what they meant at all. Let's be cautious. The blanket statement "you're lost [euphemism for GOING TO HELL]" for using a euphemism is damnable false doctrine!

What must one do to be saved (Acts 2:37)? Hear and believe the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16 & Romans 10:17), repent of their sins (Acts 3:19), confess Christ (Acts 8:37), and be baptized (immersed) for the remission of sins into the church of Christ (Acts 2:38-41; 47, I Corinthians 12:12-13, and Romans 6:1-6; 16:16). One must then remain faithful (Colossians 1:23).