

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- BELIEVE – ACTS 16:31
- REPENT – ACTS 17:30; LUKE 13:3
- CONFESS – ROMANS 10:10; I TIMOTHY 6:12
- BE BAPTIZED – ACTS 2:38; MARK 16:16
- BE FAITHFUL – REVELATION 2:10

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Times for Meeting

Lord's Day	9:30 AM	Bible Study (all ages)
	10:30 AM	Worship
Wednesday	7:00 PM	Bible Study (all ages)

Elders

Bruce Dean
Mark Ullman

Evangelist

Steven Wallace

THE NORTH RIDGEVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only,
deceiving your own selves." James 1:22

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"Filthy Speech, Profanity, and Euphemisms" (2)

Heath Rogers

In our age of fast advancing technology, some have streamlined their means of communication by using initials and abbreviations in their texting. OMG has become a common sight on internet blogs and texts. OMG stands for "Oh my God!" and is nothing more than taking God's name in vain. It is just as profane and sinful as saying the words.

Christians would not knowingly use God's name in such a way, but we can be guilty of doing so without even realizing it. We need to be careful, for God will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

Euphemisms

A euphemism is an inoffensive expression substituted for one that is considered to be offensive. Some have called it "Christian cussing." The following may seem like a list of "toned down" curse words to many people, but a dictionary will tell us what we are really saying when we use words like:

The Euphemism	The Meaning
dang	damn
darn	damn
heck	hell
shoot	sh--
shucks	sh--
gosh	God
golly	God
doggone	God d---
gee whiz	Jesus
cripes	Christ

While euphemisms may pass for more acceptable conversation in some portions of our society, they are not fitting for the child of God. One reason is because these "toned down" words mean the same thing as the "more offensive" words. Another reason is the fact that we feel like saying them in the first place. If the use of euphemisms can be called "Christian cussing," the Christian needs to work on why he feels the need to be cussing. These euphemisms come from the same place in the heart as the "more offensive" words - words for which we will have to give account.

How To Overcome the Use of Corrupt Speech and Filthy Language

Using bad language and euphemisms is a habit, and habits are admittedly hard for some to break. The following are some suggestions for the individual who wants to overcome this sinful habit.

- 1. Think before we speak.** *"The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil"* (Prov. 15:28, c.f. James 1:19). We need to be in the practice of "turning on our brain before we engage our mouth."
- 2. Remember the power of our words** (Matt. 12:36-37, Prov. 18:21). I have the right to fire a gun, but I must remember and respect the power of that gun before I think about firing it. Our words have the power to determine our eternal fate, as well as to bring us joy or sorrow in this world. I would do well to remember and respect the power of my words before I use them.
- 3. Seek to edify others with our speech.** *"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers"* (Eph. 4:29). Our words also have the potential to have

a great impact upon others. Foul language corrupts and destroys more than just the speaker. It has an impact upon the listeners and the overall environment. We must resolve to use the kind of language that will build others up, not corrupt them and drag them down.

4. Honor others with our speech. *"Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king"* (1 Peter 2:17). Filthy language and profanity are not honorable, nor do they honor others. Use of corrupt language is evidence of a shallow mind, lack of self-control and lack of respect for others. There are several hundred thousand words in the English language with which we can express ourselves. Surely Christians can find words which will allow them to communicate in an honorable way.

5. Remember that we are always in the presence of God. *"For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether"* (Ps. 139:4, c.f. vv. 7-12). God always hears what we say. Let us make sure that it is always acceptable. *"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer"* (Ps. 19:14). As the Children's Bible Class song goes: "Be careful little mouth, what you say."

6. Pray for God's help. *"Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips"* (Ps. 141:3). God can help us overcome the use of bad language if we will seek His help.

7. Keep our hearts pure (Matt. 12:33-35). Our mouths simply bring out what is already in our heart. We need to keep our heart pure, then the fruit of our lips will be pure as well (Prov. 4:23-24, Phil. 4:8).

Conclusion: As Christians, we must remember that there is great power in our words. James admonishes us to seek to control our tongues as best we can, likening them to a roaring fire and a restless evil (James 3:1-12).

Our speech should be sound (Titus 2:8), gracious and seasoned (Col. 4:6), the truth in love (Eph. 4:15), with boldness (2 Cor. 3:12), as the oracles of God (1 Pet. 4:11). We must choose our words very carefully, knowing that we will have to give an answer for them in judgment (Matt. 12:36-37, Ps. 19:14). What do you treasure for this New Year? That is where your heart will be (Matt. 6:21).

**Ed. Note:* For more information and examples of euphemisms, search "Euphemisms—Watch How We Speak," by Randy Blackaby, www.knollwoodchurch.org/yr2002/102_euphemisms.html