

“But now you must also put off all these:  
anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy  
language out of your mouth.

Colossians 3:8

“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”

Exodus 20: 7

“But those things which proceed out  
of the mouth come from the heart,  
and they defile a man.

Matthew 15:18

The Lord has been showing me over the last eight years just how different He has called us as Christians to be. We are to be in the world but not of the world. One specific way we are to be different is through our speech. People should HEAR a difference. I am not going to speak on the tone or the gentleness we are to have but actually our words that we use.

How many of us take the Lords name in vain? We know we are not to but we still do. You may be saying “not me” or “I never would do a thing like that!” I wonder how many of you will be shocked to know you do!

I am ashamed to say that after 27 years of being saved that I am just realizing that I did. We have phrases that we say and we don't even think about. Phrases that non-saved people understand as curses and yet we have conditioned ourselves to the point of not even hearing it.

I have made a list of a few common sayings. There are many, many more. The Lord continues to show me as I search.

Have you ever said one of these?

1. Oh My Goodness!
2. Oh Goodness Gracious!
3. Gosh!
4. Golly or By Golly
5. Lordy, Lordy, Lordy

If you have then you have taken your God's name in vain and you will be held accountable.

Now, I know you maybe saying that when you say these things, that your intention is not to offend God. And I do believe you as I also used that reasoning. May I say though, that it does not matter what our intention is or was. It does not change the outcome. We have blasphemed our Lord!!!!

I liken it to walking past someone and stumbling. In our falling we bump into a person that is walking by. That person hits the wall and hurts his wrists. Our intention was certainly not to hurt him but never the less we have. We are still to blame for the pain that our stumbling has caused even though we did not mean to. So it is with our Lord. We have still caused Him great pain!

Why do we take the Lord's name in vain? Well, for some, like our children, they have learned it from us. We have TAUGHT them this. All they had to do was observe us. Others have seared their consciences to this way of talking. I wonder if you think back to when you first heard one of these sayings, if you can remember what you thought. Did you think, “Oh, this is wrong!” I know I did! As a young person growing up, I would

never have been aloud to blatantly take the Lords name irreverently but saying “Gosh” instead granted me the freedom to do so without the consequences from my authorities. Don’t get me wrong here folks. I KNEW it was wrong. I just chose to do it anyways. After a while, I no longer even thought about what I was saying. It became a way of life and accepted by most Christians.

I wonder, and it sickens me to think of how many opportunities I had to witness to someone and blew it because of my speech! How many young Christians did I teach to blaspheme? We are accountable!!!

Still don’t think you break the third commandment? Take my challenge!

1. Ask yourself “What do I mean when I say one of these phrases?”
2. What do other people think you mean?
3. When you hear someone saying one, what do you hear them saying?
4. Count how many times you say them in a period of time. You may wish to do it for a full day. It may be too humbling for you as it was for me. You could shorten the time down to just the morning. Ask someone to help you count. Remember, it has become such a habit that you might not even hear yourself. Be sure though the person who is listening will!!! Don’t argue with them if they say you did and you don’t remember. It just shows how seared you have become.

How do we change our ways. Ask God to forgive you for all the times you have used His name unwisely and then purpose never to do it again. Ask the Lord to show you each time you do and ask forgiveness then. He will show you each and every time. Don’t get discouraged! For some, it has taken a lifetime to acquire this unfortunate habit. It will take time and perseverance to break it. Hold firm to the fact that you will conquer this sin through your Lord Jesus Christ who strengthens you.

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Romans 12:1-2