

TITLE – “How to avoid offensive language”

What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth that is what makes him 'unclean.' "

Matthew 15:11 (NIV)

Introduction

It is very easy to speak against someone today. If we just look at the political characters in our current government or for that matter the governments of the world.

We tend to watch the presidents of countries and make comments that slate their character.

We see the things celebrities say and do, and make our “JUSTIFIED” comment about them.

Essentially this is offensive conversation.

Who does it offend? Well the person can't hear me! But God can.

POT holes have become Julius Malema's fault! How ridiculous!

And generally it is easier to “joke” “jibe” or take someone on with unwise comments rather than speak good words in fear of giving them a big head.

And unfortunately we bring this into our family circles, our friends and even the church which is supposed to be the voice of God.

I some time wonder what God thinks about the things we say.

The truth about the mouth

1. It is the vehicle that gives voice to what is in your heart

*But the things that come out of the **mouth** come from the **heart**, and these make a man 'unclean.' Matthew 15:18 (NIV)*

2. It is misused – sometimes it blesses and worships and sometimes it curses.

*His **mouth** is full of **curses** and lies and threats; trouble and evil are under his tongue. Psalm 10:7 (NIV)*

*With the **tongue** we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. James 3:9*

3. The Word warns against evil use of it.

*"If you have played the fool and exalted yourself, or if you have planned **evil**, clap your hand over your **mouth**! Proverbs 30:32*

4. No man can tame it.

*"But no man can tame the **tongue**. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison." James 3:8*

The mouth of the righteous man utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks what is just. Psalm 37:30

How to overcome offensive language!

1. We need to **QUALIFY** our consumption.

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. **Philippians 4:8***

And I contend that if your input is correct then you will follow this encouragement and what comes out will be what you are thinking about.

You have heard – Garbage in – Garbage out
What goes in will come out.

- People have lost the love for God's word and rely on books and or what others say.
- And if some church leader says something derogatory about another person or church are we justified to repeat it!
- We need to put a "bit" into our mouth – The Word of God. Be guided by the Word of God when you talk.

2. We need to **CONTROL** our output.

*For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his **tongue** from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. **1 Peter 3:10***

- **THINK** before you speak. Many Christians don't make the slightest effort to control the tongue.
- We answer far too quickly and don't worry about offending. Listen first and then do a quality check on what you are going to say.
- **GOSSIP** must **GO** – *Repeat after me.*
- Cruel words have wrecked homes, broken friendships, divided churches and sent untold millions to ruin and despair.
- The tongue is mightier than the sword.
- Rather encourage than discourage.

3. Not only do we need to control our output, we must **STOP** it.

Do not let your mouth lead you into sin. **Ecclesiastes 5:6**

- God has put in place our Government and the fact that you don't like them is no excuse to curse them.
- If you curse them you are indirectly telling God He didn't know what He was doing!
- So if you want to avoid using offensive language just **STOP**.

4. We need to **TESTIFY** about God's love for us.

³²Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. ³³I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴I have seen and I **testify** that this is the Son of God."
John 1:32-34

- John met with the Son of God and testified.
- Have you ever noticed how people are esteemed when someone else speaks good things about them?
- You should be making good comments about your leadership, your spouse, your children, your brother or sister.
- Get into a habit of good language.

Action Points

Remember that your words define your character.

Example

Gossipers Gossip

You don't want to be known as a Gossiper.

And you don't want to be known by your negative / offensive talk.