

Coarsening of America

If your arm is already bruised and swollen and someone bumps into you, it is almost certain that they will bump that very arm and you will likely scream out in spite of your normally docile nature. It may be just an aggravating sore spot that time after time someone picks at and finally you reach your critical mass and explode like an atomic bomb. Righteous and conscientious people generally love their neighbors and want to be friendly. They want to participate in as much common activity as is possible short of crossing the boundaries of sin, but honestly! Just how many times do we have to hear the "A-word" or other vulgarities from otherwise decent neighbors before we scream out and stomp off into some refuge where people can express themselves with decent and less offensive language?

"Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one." Colossians 4:6. One of the great pleasures of meeting with Christians is that you can get some relief from the jolting or nauseating language of choice of our worldly neighbors. Is your home a refuge? If you still watch network or cable television, you must be aware that our "family" entertainment people believe we have given them permission to talk about private body parts or vulgar forms of those words as well as shameful sexual sins and the most shocking words used in the streets. We now have commercials discussing embarrassing hygiene issues and medicines to treat "intimate" dysfunctions. Have your kids asked you lately what those commercials are talking about? Are you angry enough yet? How much exactly are you going to accept into your home? Where will you draw the line?

If you work among street people, druggies, prostitutes, or prison inmates, you know you will have to hear garbage coming out of their mouths constantly. Only the Gospel can clean up their language. They talk that way because their hearts are full of it. Jesus said, ***"out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."*** Matthew 12:34. What are we going to do about it? tp