

Stop Cussing: Be Not Conformed to This World! : Part 1

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Pervasiveness Of F-Bomb And Cussing, Hollywood's Romance With F-Bomb, Out Of The Mouth Of Babes, Train Up A Child, Changing Social Attitudes, Run Like An Army, My Mom The Disciplinarian, Biblical Counsel Concerning Child Discipline, My Childhood, My Roman Catholic Upbringing, My Good News for Modern Man NT, Backslidden And Cussing At Forty, On The Job Peer Pressure, Be Not Conformed To This World, Changed By Work Environment, My Compromise, The Children Of Light And Lights In The World, My Dislike For F-Bomb, My Use Of Expletives, Paul And Dung, Offensive Crap And God's Unorthodox Methods, Be Sensitive But Don't Compromise Message, Lukewarm Spiritually-Dead Churches, My Writing Modus Operandi, Listen To The Voice Of The Spirit, Ye Cannot Bear Them Now, Quench Not The Spirit, Some People Will Be Offended No Matter How Softly We Preach, Spiritually Blind Children Of The World, Satan Is The Father Of Lies

The so-called "f-bomb". Are you sick and tired of hearing it yet? That four-letter, filthy, offensive, ugly word seems to be just about everywhere these days. We hear it constantly in our place of work at the water cooler or perhaps in the lunch room. It is constantly repeated in schoolyards throughout the nation. It has firmly lodged itself in millions of books and magazines. It is heard everywhere on our city streets. It has even invaded the sanctity of our homes. It blares out from the television set and the radio, from CD players, from iPods, iPads and iPhones, and from laptop and desktop computers.

Then, of course, there is Hollywood, which I personally prefer to refer to as unHollywood. The f-bomb is clearly their little darling. It literally seems like script writers, directors, actors and producers are in a contest with each other to see how far they can go to shock the public, by fitting as many occurrences of that disgusting little word in a two-hour movie as possible. It is tragic. Who cares about a decent plot. As long as the film shocks, and earns a huge profit, Hollywood is happy. God help us!

Tragically, and alarmingly so, the f-bomb and similar ugly words are even coming out of the mouths of some very young children who should never ever be caught expressing such things; and yet it happens all the time. I have heard it on occasions, and it shocks me, and it makes me wonder about their parents. The Scriptures teach us the following:

"Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger."
Psalm 8:2, KJV

"And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth

of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?"
Matthew 21:16, KJV

What has happened to us? How have we gone so low, that even young children have become offensive, cookie-cutter images of their own foul-mouthed parents? In the Book of Proverbs we find the following wise counsel:

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it"
Proverbs 22:6, KJV

Clearly, in many cases -- but not always -- the blame lies with the parents. Perhaps those parents were in turn shaped by their own parents who also cussed a lot. Whatever the case may be, some parents -- and I would even dare say many parents -- are not training up their children in the way they should go. Rather, they are being very poor examples to them through their own use of expletives and other offensive words. It is no surprise then that some children eventually pick up the same bad habit. Who can blame them? It alarms me that some misguided parents actually find it cute when they first hear an expletive proceeding out of the mouth of their young child.

For other more responsible parents, however, having one of their young children let loose with a cuss word comes as a major shock and an embarrassment. This is particularly so when it happens in front of friends and acquaintances, and even in front of total strangers. While they may express embarrassment on the outside, at the same time, some parents realize in their hearts that they have no one to blame but themselves. If you are a parent who finds it unacceptable for your children to swear, it is at this point that you need to make a decision regarding what you are going to do about it, and how you will proceed. Given the prevailing attitudes of our modern day, it may not be as easy as you think.

The fact of the matter is that times have certainly changed since I was a child five decades ago. Being as my dad spent a lot of time away from home, hard at work raising money for our poor family of four boys and a girl, it was left to my mother to be the disciplinarian; and indeed she was. She in fact ran our home like an army. Unlike today, we children were each assigned various daily and weekly chores, and we were all expected to complete them if we wanted any weekend privileges such as staying up late at night, or a special outing.

My mother was likewise very strong when it came to the issue of discipline as well. Any kind of disrespect, dishonesty or sibling fighting was often rewarded with black pepper on the tongue, a bar of soap in the mouth, or being chastised with a leather belt. Time out in bed, or standing in the corner, were other means of discipline which were enforced regularly. While such methods of discipline would more than likely be viewed as child abuse according to modern societal standards, and might even result in a visit by someone from the Child Protective Services, the Bible offers a different picture in the following verses:

"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."
Proverbs 19:18, KJV

"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."
Proverbs 22:15, KJV

"Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."
Proverbs 23:13-14, KJV

"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame . . . Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul."
Proverbs 29:15, 17, KJV

"The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother."
Proverbs 10:1, KJV

"A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke."
Proverbs 13:1, KJV

"A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother."
Proverbs 15:20, KJV

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."
Ephesians 6:1-4, KJV

"Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged."
Colossians 3:20-21, KJV

"Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;"
1 Timothy 3:3-4, KJV

For my own part, I was a rather decent child. To my personal recollection, I was never disrespectful to my parents, and I definitely never cussed. Of course, I did get into trouble for some minor infractions of our household laws, but they were just the usual things that young children do, such as sneaking candy when I was not supposed to, or maybe lying about something in order to protect myself. Some time ago when I informed my now-grown daughter that I was a very good boy who never got into any heated arguments with my parents, she was rather incredulous. So, I told her to email my aging father, and simply ask him about it, which she did. In his reply, he informed her that I was in fact speaking the truth.

Most children were simply a lot more respectful back then.

Regarding cussing, swearing, using expletives, or however you wish to refer to it, as I said, I never ever engaged in this practice as a child, or even as a teenager or a young adult for that matter. Even at a young age, I realized that to do so was wrong. During my early teenage years, I confess that I became somewhat self-righteous due to the fact that I held my tongue. But the truth is that I never cussed, drank, smoked or did drugs. Some people will no doubt view me as a typical goody-goody boy, which I suppose I was. As I explain in my mini-biography, I was also a very shy, introverted young boy and teenager.

What may surprise you is the fact that my parents were not practicing Christians. As I explain in "To Pray or Not to Pray", while they made sure that we children were baptized and confirmed in the local Roman Catholic Church, and also attended catechism, went to weekly confession -- it was still a weekly requirement back then in order to be able to partake of the communion on Sunday -- and attended church every week, neither of them were churchgoers themselves. While I strongly oppose much of Roman Catholic doctrine at this current time, I suppose that attending the RCC during my childhood, plus reading the "Good News for Modern Man" New Testament during my teenage years, did me some good. It certainly gave me a healthy reverence for the Lord, thus resulting in my chaste behavior as a child and as a teenager. In fact, it was during my teenage years that I first experienced the Lord's strong call to service in my life.

At any rate, it wasn't until many years later, when I was approaching my fortieth birthday, that I yielded myself to the spirit of the world, and began to engage in occasional cussing. At that particular point in my life, I was in a backslidden state. For reasons I won't get into here, I had lost my first love for the Lord, and I began to act just like a child of the world in some regards. I was working as a manager at a local business establishment at the time. Up until that point, I still addressed people with "Yes sir" and "Yes ma'am". However, my boss -- who was rather laid back -- apparently found my level of respect uncomfortable. Thus, she insisted that I refer to her by her first name, which in turn made me a bit uncomfortable; but I obliged.

The sad truth of the matter is that rubbing up against the crass, crude, obscene, insensitive spirit of the world -- as many Christians do -- can very easily affect us if we are not careful. If you are one who is still engaged in a job in the secular world, the battle becomes even more difficult. Sooner or later, the temptation arises to let a foul word slip here or there. Rather than adhere to the Apostle Paul's advice to not conform to the world, in a moment of weakness -- perhaps because we feel the need to fit in and not stick out like a sore thumb -- we adjust our behavior a bit in order to seem like one of the guys, or gals. Oh yes! Some women have quite the tongue on them as well. Consider this verse:

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Romans 12:2, KJV

That is exactly what happened to me. I lowered my personal standard, and I conformed to the world in order to fit in, and to seem more "cool" to my fellow employees. When I first began working at this particular job, I had short hair and I sported a mustache. However, over the course of the years that I worked there, I let my hair grow to shoulder length -- so much so that I even wore a headband -- and I also let my beard grow out as well. Considering that I have always enjoyed wearing blue jeans and a blue jean jacket, because they are quite comfortable, I looked very much like a 1960's hippie, but without the drugs. One fellow referred to me as "Mr. Scuzzy" due to my bushy, bearded face. As I said, that was the environment there. It was just one very laid back place to work.

However, the part that bothers me the most when I look back at that time in my life, is that I also occasionally began to cuss. Shamefully, this included using the f-bomb on rare occasions whenever we employees would engage in the usual inter-employee bravado. It was not done in a mean sense; it was just the way that guys tend to demonstrate machismo to each other. I am sure that many of you who have done this very same thing will understand what I am talking about. I am not seeking to justify my actions and behavior by any means. In fact, I will tell you straight out that I do not like the individual that I became during those years. It was not the real me. It was not the child of God that the Lord crafted me to be.

In a word, because of my desire to fit in and be accepted by my work companions, I compromised. Rather than be a spiritual light to my boss and all of my coworkers, I chose to hide my light under a bushel because I was backslidden in my personal relationship with the Lord. Consider the following verses:

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16, KJV

"No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light. The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness. Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness. If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light."

Luke 11:33-36, KJV

"And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light."

Luke 16:8, KJV

"While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them."
John 12:36, KJV

"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children . . . For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light . . . And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."
Ephesians 5:1, 8, 11, KJV

"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;"
Philippians 2:15, KJV

"But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness."
1 Thessalonians 5:4-5, KJV

To reiterate, clearly, I was by no means shining as a light in the world during that time in my life. I was acting just like every other child of the world. I was wasting my time doing things which were of no eternal importance. I knowingly allowed my vessel of flesh -- particularly my tongue -- to become a conduit for a manner of speech which is obviously not befitting for a child of the King. While I do not recall having ever used the "g-d" expletive, I did use the f-bomb on occasion, and probably the "sh" word, the "bull" word, and "damn" as well. Please understand that these events occurred twenty years ago, so my memory is not exactly crystal clear.

The thing is, I have never really liked the "f" word. I have always considered it to be a very offensive, ugly word. So it shames me to know and to admit that I used it on probably a few occasions. It reveals to what degree I had backslidden in my heart, so that I would even occasionally use a word which I actually detested, and still detest. That is what happens when we compromise with the world. It slowly begins to change us.

At this point, some of you are probably wondering if this means that I no longer swear, and that I am now the perfect, little "sinless Saint". I will be very honest with you. Over the past twenty years since I got my life back on track with the Lord, the times when I have used an expletive in an angry sense have been very rare. Someone has to really enrage me before I will let loose with a cuss word; and even then, it is usually said just once or twice. Furthermore, I do feel very bad afterwards, and I ask the Lord to forgive me for my anger and slip of the tongue. If you consider that I am very much a recluse who has limited contact with the children of the world, the fact that I cuss so little should be rather understandable. I truly endeavor to hold my tongue.

At the same time, I spend a lot of time alone in front of my computer. Sometimes when something goes wrong -- such as an unexpected power outage while I am working, or some kind of a computer error -- I will use the "sh" word. It is just a

bad hangover from my past, which I know I should purge from my life completely. As I read the news online, I will also sometimes say to myself, "That is really bull_," or I might just use the abbreviations "BS" instead. If the Apostle Paul had no problem with using a word like "dung" to describe his former wasted life as a Pharisee, I am not so certain that the Lord becomes offended when I occasionally use the "bull" word to describe the nonsense that occurs in the world, or the lies that appear in the news, or which are so often told by national governments. Consider this verse:

"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,"
Philippians 3:8, KJV

If you doubt that Paul is actually referring to excrement, then please consider that the word "dung" is derived from the Greek word "skubalon". This word is only used one time in the entire New Testament of the King James Version of the Holy Bible. Pronounced skoo'-bal-on, Thayer's Greek English Lexicon describes this word in the following manner:

----- Begin Quote -----

- 1) any refuse, as the excrement of animals, offscourings, rubbish, dregs
- 1a) of things worthless and detestable

----- End Quote -----

The truth is that using a less forceful word to describe some of the nonsense that goes on in this evil world just does not seem as appropriate in my view. We need to call a spade, a spade, as they say. It may also interest you to know that a number of years ago, one of my longtime dear friends informed me that she was offended by my use of the word "crap". I thought about her reaction for a while, and then I wrote the series entitled "My God is a Shocker". It draws upon examples straight from the Bible to demonstrate that God is not particularly concerned with what men think of Him, or how He chooses to operate. You may want to read it. Incidentally, this dear Christian woman -- who will be turning ninety-five in January of 2013 -- is still my close friend and supporter; even after fifteen years of reading my oft times hard-to-swallow articles.

While out of love we should endeavor to remain sensitive to how our words and actions may affect or be viewed by other Christian brethren, at the same time, we likewise need to be very careful that we don't bow to political correctness, peer pressure and menpleasing, so that we tone down the message to the point that we are only preaching a politically correct, non-offensive, watered-down, socially-acceptable Gospel. This is precisely what occurs in so many spiritually-dead churches today. The Spirit has long departed from such places; and yet they just keep on preaching the same old lukewarm tripe. Sad to say, many nominal, lukewarm, misguided Christians continue to attend such churches -- and fill their donation plates as well -- because that is all that they have ever known.

In discussing how some of the more legalistic brethren were becoming offended by the spiritual liberty which we obtain through Christ, the Apostle Paul wrote the following in his Epistle to the Romans:

"Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean. But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. Let not then your good be evil spoken of: For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence. It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak. Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin. We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me."
Romans 14:13-15:3, KJV

While some people -- particularly my critics -- may consider me proud, self-righteous and abrasive -- those are some of the nicer words that they use -- the truth of the matter is that over the years, following the Apostle Paul's advice in the previous verses, due to the sensitivities of some of my Christian brethren, I have actually toned down some of the things that I have said and written. One reason why it takes me so long to release an article, is because I invest a lot of time in carefully choosing my words, and I endeavor to be sensitive to the Lord's Spirit as I write. Sometimes I will write something, and then the Lord's Spirit will speak to my heart and basically say "You should take that part out. They won't be able to handle that. They will be overly offended by that. Say it this way instead."

No, it is not actually audible words or anything like that. It is just the impression that I receive. It is a barely perceptible inner voice; the Voice of the Spirit, I assume. So I will remove certain words, or else I will reword them so that they are not quite as blunt. As I mention in a few other articles, Jesus and the Apostles also withheld certain information when they felt that their listeners or readers were not yet able to bear them. Consider the following example verses:

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now."
John 16:12, KJV

And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able."
1 Corinthians 3:1-2, KJV

Of course, being as I operate an online writing ministry where anyone can access and read my work, I really do not have the luxury of being able to selectively address my reading audience. What is accessible to one, is likewise accessible to all. That being the case, I have a choice. Either I preach the full truth of the Gospel -- including the offensive parts -- and let the chips fall where they may, or else I allow weaker brethren to affect my writing, and end up preaching a compromised message. My choice is found in the following short verse:

"Quench not the Spirit."
1 Thessalonians 5:19, KJV

So, while we should endeavor to be mindful of those people who may be sensitive to certain things, at the same time, we also need to recognize that no matter how softly, and how diplomatically we endeavor to tread as we preach the Gospel and the truth of God's Word, there are always going to be some people who will be offended by it. Why is this? Because such persons simply do not belong to the Lord, and they are not the Children of Light. They do not possess the Spirit of the Lord. Therefore, they cannot understand the things of the Spirit of God. They are in fact the children of darkness, the children of rebellion, and the children of disobedience. They are the spiritually-blind and rebellious children of the world who possess the spirit of the world, which is the spirit of Satan, because he is the false god of this present world. Consider the following verses:

"And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear."
Matthew 13:10-16, KJV

"Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."
Matthew 15:14, KJV

"Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall

swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor! . . . Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel."
Matthew 23:16, 24, KJV

"And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other."
Mark 3:5, KJV

"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."
John 3:19-21, KJV

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it . . . He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God."
John 8:44, 47, KJV

"And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth."
John 9:39-41, KJV

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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Stop Cussing: Be Not Conformed to This World! : Part 2

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Spiritually Blind Children Of The World, God Of This World, Be Slow To Speak, Let No Corrupt Communication Proceed Out Of Your Mouth, Don't Speak Hastily Out Of Anger, A Brother Offended, Love Covers The Multitude Of Sins, Be Merciful And Forgive, Difficulty Of Breaking Away From Addiction Or Bad Habit, Besmirched By The World, Washed In The Blood Of The

Lamb, Be Ye Holy: Sanctification And Meaning Of Sainthood, Cleansed Purified Consecrated And Separated From The World, Do All To The Glory Of God, Not Of This World, Cleansed By The Word, Four Steps Involving Sanctification, Jesus Prayed Apostles Wouldn't Be Elevated Out Of This World, Ascension

Following are some additional verses which clearly describe the spiritually-blind, rebellious children of the world who reject Jesus Christ:

"(According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day . . . For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in."
Romans 11:8, 25, KJV

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."
1 Corinthians 2:14, KJV

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."
2 Corinthians 4:4, KJV

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:"
Ephesians 2:2, KJV

"Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:"
Ephesians 4:18, KJV

"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."
Ephesians 5:6, KJV

"For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:"
Colossians 3:6, KJV

"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry . . ."
1 Samuel 15:23a, KJV

In examining the Scriptures, we discover that there are a lot of verses which admonish us to guard what comes out of our mouths. Not only that, but God's Word strongly advises us to be slow to speak in the first place. Consider the following examples and take heed:

"Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain;

for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."

Exodus 20:7, KJV

"In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise."

Proverbs 10:19, KJV

"Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few."

Ecclesiastes 5:2, KJV

"He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him."

Proverbs 18:13, KJV

"A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards."

Proverbs 29:11, KJV

"Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil."

Matthew 5:33-37, KJV

"For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

Matthew 12:37, KJV

"And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand: Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man. Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch. Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable. And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding? Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man."

Matthew 15:10-20, KJV

"Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?"

Romans 9:20, KJV

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."
Ephesians 4:29, KJV

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."
Philippians 4:8, KJV

"But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth."
Colossians 3:8, KJV

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:"
James 1:19, KJV

"For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh."
James 3:2-12, KJV

The fact of the matter is that many of us fail to take heed to the wise counsel that is found in the previous verses. We become so offended and angered by something that someone has said or done, that due to our fallen sinful nature, our first inclination is to strike out at them with a verbal onslaught of indecent words. Cussing may help us to let off some steam, but doing so may also cause irreparable damage to the person who is the recipient of our verbal wrath. I am reminded of the following verse that is found in the Book of Proverbs:

"A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle."
Proverbs 18:19, KJV

While we all occasionally take offense, rather than react in a moment of anger by releasing a barrage of filthy cuss words on someone's head, what the Scriptures actually advise us to

do in such a case is the following:

"Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins."
Proverbs 10:12, KJV

"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy."
Matthew 5:7, KJV

"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."
Matthew 6:14-15, KJV

"Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven . . . Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."
Matthew 18:21-22, 32-35, KJV

"Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:"
Luke 6:37, KJV

"Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him."
Luke 17:3-4, KJV

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."
Galatians 6:1, KJV

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."
Ephesians 4:32, KJV

"And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins."
1 Peter 4:8, KJV

Of course, as we have already seen, a lot of times cussing has very little to do with being angry or offended. We just fall in with the wrong crowd. In our desire to be accepted, we pick up their bad habits. However, as I mention in other articles, it is a lot easier to become addicted to a certain habit or manner of behavior, than it is to break away from it. Smokers, drunks, drug addicts and people who engage in viewing pornography most certainly know this to be true. At any rate, as with these other vices, when cussing becomes a regular part of our lifestyle, we in fact become besmirched

by the world and unclean, and we are no longer spotless and blameless in the Lord's sight.

As I explain in the article called "Striving for Perfection: Are You a Sinless Saint?", when we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we are symbolically washed in the Blood of the Lamb, and our sins are forgiven. This truth is made very evident by verses such as the following:

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."
Isaiah 1:18, KJV

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."
Matthew 26:26-28, KJV

"And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many."
Mark 14:22-24, KJV

"And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."
Luke 22:14-20, KJV

"Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;"
Romans 3:25, KJV

"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."
Ephesians 2:13, KJV

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;"
Hebrews 10:19-20, KJV

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have

fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

1 John 1:7, KJV

"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

1 John 2:2, KJV

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

1 John 4:10, KJV

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,"

Revelation 1:5, KJV

"And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Revelation 7:14, KJV

Through this process of being washed in the Blood of the Lamb of God, we in fact are sanctified and become holy. We undergo a process of sanctification. In other words, we become Saints. It is for this reason that throughout the New Testament, the members of the Church are repeatedly referred to as Saints. A Saint is not just a deceased person who, because they led a holy life and did good deeds and performed miracles, is thus declared a Saint postmortem by the Roman Catholic Church. It is a lie and a deception to believe this false doctrine. It sets the bar so high, that very few people can ever hope to achieve it. God has called His children to be sanctified and to live holy lives, because a holy God requires that His children likewise be holy. This is made evident by verses such as the following:

"For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."

Leviticus 11:44, KJV

"Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God."

Leviticus 20:7, KJV

"I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth."

John 17:14-19, KJV

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and

cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."
Ephesians 5:25-27, KJV

"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:"
Colossians 1:21-22, KJV

"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness."
1 Thessalonians 4:3-7, KJV

"Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."
1 Thessalonians 5:22-24, KJV

"But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:"
2 Thessalonians 2:13, KJV

"Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate."
Hebrews 13:12, KJV

"Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied . . . But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."
1 Peter 1:1-2, 15-16, KJV

In the previous verses, the word "holy" is derived from the Greek word "hagios". The word "Saint" is also derived from this very same Greek word. The word "hagios" is translated as "holy" one hundred and sixty-one times, and as "Saints" sixty-one times in the KJV Bible. In similar fashion, the word "sanctification" is derived from the Greek "hagiasmos", and the word "sanctify" is derived from the Greek "hagiazō". Even if you don't know Greek, it is very easy to notice the structural similarity between these three words. But what do these words actually mean in English? Let me share with you their definitions, as they are found in Thayer's Greek English Lexicon:

----- Begin Quote -----

A. hagios

KJV - holy 161, saints 61, Holy One 4, misc 3; 229

1) most holy thing, a saint

B. hagasmos

KJV - holiness 5, sanctification 5; 10

1) consecration, purification

2) the effect of consecration

2a) sanctification of heart and life

C. hagiozo

KJV - sanctify 26, hallow 2, be holy 1; 29

1) to render or acknowledge, or to be venerable or hallow

2) to separate from profane things and dedicate to God

2a) consecrate things to God

2b) dedicate people to God

3) to purify

3a) to cleanse externally

3b) to purify by expiation: free from the guilt of sin

3c) to purify internally by renewing of the soul

----- End Quote -----

As you can plainly see then, sanctification refers to the process of sanctifying a person and making them a Saint in the here and now, and not after they are dead. As I stated a moment ago, this occurs when we are symbolically washed in the Blood of the Lamb. Sanctification is a process which God uses to cleanse and purify us from sin. It is a process that He uses to dedicate us and to consecrate us to His service. But notice what else we are told in the previous definitions. It is a process to actually separate us from profane things. It is a process to separate us from the filthiness of the present world so that we can be used instead for His glory. As the Apostle Paul likewise wrote:

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."
1 Corinthians 10:31, KJV

With this expanded understanding, if we re-examine the verses that I shared with you from the seventeenth chapter of the Gospel of John, we come to see that this is exactly what the Lord was saying when He prayed for the Apostles. Let me share those verses with you once again before I offer a detailed explanation:

"I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou

hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth."
John 17:14-19, KJV

Jesus states that the Apostles are not of this world, just as He is not of this world, but rather was sent into this world in order to become our Savior. He then prays that His Father will sanctify the Apostles through the Truth of His Word. In other words, based on the previous definitions, Jesus prays for the Apostles to be cleansed and purified, and separated from the world so that they can be wholly consecrated to the Lord's service. This is precisely what happened too, because as Jesus also says in earlier chapters of this same Gospel:

"Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean."
John 13:10-11, KJV

"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."
John 15:3, KJV

Having thus undergone this process of sanctification -- that is, becoming Saints -- after several years of training, the Lord sends them back into the world; not as tax collectors and fishermen again, but as divinely anointed emissaries of the Kingdom of Heaven. So that is what sanctification is all about. It is the very same process which we are supposed to undergo today as well, two thousand years later. It basically involves the following four steps:

1. Being cleansed and purified by the Blood of Jesus Christ.
2. Being separated from the world and consecrated for God's service.
3. Being properly trained for the upcoming outreach mission.
4. Being sent into the world as God's emissaries in order to fulfill the Divine Mission, or Great Commission.

This is true Sainthood. This is what it means to be a Saint.

There is one final point which I would like to share with you concerning those verses that are found in John chapter seventeen. While some of you may not understand this, when Jesus prays "I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world", what He means in a very literal sense is that He does not want His Father to take the Apostles up, up and away just yet. In the previous verse the word "take" is derived from the Greek word "airo". Consulting Thayer's Greek English Lexicon, the primary meaning of this word is to raise up from the ground, to elevate, to lift up, to bear away what has been raised. My gosh; even in the Greek word itself we see the word "air". Now, if you doubt that this is what Jesus means, then allow me to remind you of what happened in Acts chapter one:

"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he

was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

Acts 1:9-11, KJV

In the previous verses, the phrase "he was taken up" is derived from one Greek word; that is, "epairo". Even without me telling you, you can easily see that this word is derived from the root word "airo". Thus, it shouldn't surprise you that it also means to lift up, raise up, or raise on high. That is exactly what we see happening in those verses. Jesus is being raised up to Heaven. Exactly how this event may have occurred is a topic which I discuss in other articles. At any rate, that is exactly what the Lord means in the seventeenth chapter of the Gospel of John when He prays that the Apostles won't be taken out of the world. It has nothing to do with going back to their secular jobs.

Please go to part three for the continuation of this series.

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Stop Cussing: Be Not Conformed to This World! : Part 3

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Forsake The Old Life, Be Ye Not Unequally Yoked Together With Unbelievers, Stay Dropped Out, The Church In The Wilderness, Ekklesia Means The Church That Is Called Out From The World, True Spiritual Nature Of The Church, God's Displeasure With Physical Temples And Churches, True Ekklesia Is Persecuted By The False Church Of The World, Strangers And Pilgrims On The Earth, Don't Commit Spiritual Adultery By Being A Friend Of The World, Back To The Vomit And Mire, Don't Become Entangled In The Affairs Of This Life, Sad State Of Christianity, Demas Loved This Present World, They Loved Not Their Lives Unto The Death, The Core Message, Abstain From All Appearance Of Evil

Continuing our discussion from part two, as I noted earlier, being sent into the world after a person has been saved and sanctified does not mean to return to our former way of life. It does not mean going back to our old job, our old habits, our old friends, and whatever else we did in our former way of life. We are supposed to preach to the world, and to be witnesses to the world; but as occurred with the Apostles, we are likewise to remain unyoked from the godless world and its

evil ways. Thus it is that the Apostle Paul also wrote the following in his second Epistle to the brethren at Corinth:

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."
2 Corinthians 6:14-18, KJV

To even consider that following sanctification, being sent into the world -- as Jesus did with the Apostles -- means to go back to that old sinful way of life, selfishly earning a living for oneself, is in total contradiction to verses such as the following. These verses demonstrate that once they forsook their former lives and jobs, the Apostles did not return to them at some later point in time. They remained dropped out of the world, and they in fact remained wholly dedicated to preaching the Gospel of Salvation. They were the Church in the wilderness of the world, just as we are the Church in the wilderness of the world today. We remain outside of the world, and outside of organized religion:

"And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him."
Matthew 4:19-20, KJV

"And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him."
Matthew 9:9, KJV

"And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him."
Mark 2:14, KJV

"And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me. And he left all, rose up, and followed him."
Luke 5:27-28, KJV

"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it."
Luke 9:23-24, KJV

"So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."
Luke 14:33, KJV

"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them."
2 Peter 2:20-21, KJV

To reiterate, as the original Greek words clearly point out, part of the sanctification process involves being separated from the world, so that one can be wholly consecrated to the Lord's service. If we are not separated from the world, then neither are we truly sanctified in the fullest sense of the word. Another Greek word which points to the same definition is "ekklesia". In the New Testament, this word is translated as "church". Contrary to the erroneous meaning which crafty religionists have applied to it, this word does not mean an assembly of people who have been called out of their homes in order to participate in a service at a physical church building.

Some of you -- perhaps many of you -- will be surprised, and may possibly take offense at my statement and outright reject it. However, before you do so, please consider the following. The Greek word "ekklesia" is a compound of two Greek words. These two words are "ek" and "kaleo". The latter word means to call or to bid. But the question is this: Does the word actually mean to call or to bid to something, such as to a physical church building? We find the answer in the first word, "ek". This word means out of, from or away from. Now, due to your indoctrination by organized religion, some of you will no doubt be thinking to yourselves, "Well, see; there it is! This demonstrates that people are being called, or bidden, out of their homes, in order to participate in the mass at a church building.

I am sorry to disappoint you, but that is not what is being stated at all. You need to remember that the New Testament was written during the First Century. This was a time of great persecution for the Church. At that time, there were no physical church buildings. This point alone proves that the word "ekklesia" does not refer to an assembly of people who are called out from their homes in order to attend a service in a church building. In fact, even assembling in a large group anywhere during that time would have no doubt called attention to themselves, and would have potentially resulted in persecution.

Furthermore, even if there had been no persecution during the First Century when the New Testament was written, and when the word "ekklesia" found its way into it, I am quite certain that the Apostles and Disciples would still not have engaged in building churches. The reason why I am convinced of this fact, is because that is not what Jesus instructed them to do. Not only did He instruct them to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature -- and not sit on church pews -- but He also clearly taught them that the real Church is spiritual in nature, and is comprised of you and me, and all of the rest of the Saints, past and present. This truth is so clearly revealed in verses such as the following:

"And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."

Luke 17:20-21, KJV

"Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body. When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said."

John 2:19-22, KJV

"Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

John 4:21-24, KJV

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ . . . Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

1 Corinthians 3:11, 16-17, KJV

"And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

1 Corinthians 10:4, KJV

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

Ephesians 2:19-22, KJV

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who

hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"
1 Peter 2:5-9, KJV

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."
1 Corinthians 6:19-20, KJV

"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."
2 Corinthians 6:16-18, KJV

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."
2 Corinthians 5:1, KJV

"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name."
Revelation 3:12, KJV

"And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it."
Revelation 21:22, KJV

In stark contrast to the previous verses which describe the true Temple and Church of God, consider the following verses which reveal God's displeasure with -- and lack of desire for -- physical temples and church buildings:

"Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?"
Isaiah 66:1, KJV

"The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?"
Jeremiah 5:31, KJV

"Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, are these."
Jeremiah 7:4, KJV

"For Israel hath forgotten his Maker, and buildeth temples; and Judah hath multiplied fenced cities: but I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour the palaces thereof."
Hosea 8:14, KJV

"Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with

hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?"
Acts 7:48-49, KJV

"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;"
Acts 17:24, KJV

"And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying, Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in? Whereas I have not dwelt in any house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle. In all the places wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar?"
2 Samuel 7:4-7, KJV

"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?"
1 Kings 8:27, KJV

Let me also point out that in their old age, at least some of the Apostles had witnessed the destruction of Judaism's most holy site -- that is, King Herod's Temple -- which was situated on the summit of Mount Moriah. That being the case, I seriously doubt that they were very eager to build church buildings which might become the objects of wrath of the Romans.

The simple truth of the matter is that according to Thayer's Greek English Lexicon, there is absolutely nothing in the meanings of the Greek words "ek" and "kaleo" to indicate an assembly of people in a physical church building. It is only when these two words are joined together to form the word "ekklesia", that they are "magically" transformed by certain religionists to mean an assembly of Christians who are called out from their homes in order to attend a mass in some church. To reiterate, the Greek words "ek" and "kaleo" simply mean to be called out of, or to be called away from. What we need to determine is what they are being called out of and away from. If it is not their homes as the religionists suppose, then what is it?

If you have been paying close attention to everything I have been saying, particularly to the verses which I have shared, then the answer should already be clear to you. If you have not yet grasped the answer, all you have to do is re-examine exactly what happened in the Scriptures which I have already shared with you in order to find it. It is really as plain as day.

What did Jesus pray and do after He had initiated His public Ministry? He began recruiting, or calling the Apostles and Disciples out of and away from the world. He called them out of and away from their former lives and jobs in the world. He likewise prayed that they would be sanctified -- or cleansed,

purified, separated and set aside from the world -- in order to be used for God's glory. That is precisely what both "ek kaleo" and "ekkllesia" mean. They represent the assembly of the called out ones. They are not called out of their homes in order to attend mass in a church building. Rather, they are called out of, and away from, the world itself.

The ekkllesia is the Church which resides in the wilderness of this world. It in fact knows no national boundaries, and its members are from every nation in the world. The ekkllesia -- or called out ones -- are strangers and pilgrims on the Earth. Organized religion -- whether it is ancient Judaism and Temple worship of two thousand years ago, or misguided modern churchianity today -- is not the ekkllesia, because it was, or still is, a part of the evil world. The false church in fact persecutes the true ekkllesia of God, because it is jealous of her, and the fact that she is loved by the Father.

As we discovered earlier, the Apostle Paul wrote "come out from among them, and be ye separate . . . and touch not the unclean thing." As I point out in other articles, Paul's teachings merely reflected what Jesus Himself had taught. That "unclean thing" is the evil world itself. With those words, Paul was once again emphasizing the importance of sanctification. Come out, be separated, be sanctified. If you are not yet convinced that God's truly saved children and Saints are supposed to remain separated from this filthy world, in order that the Lord might find us spotless and blameless, then please carefully and prayerfully consider what is stated in the following verses. There is no denying their truth, in my view:

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."
Matthew 6:24, KJV

"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."
John 15:19, KJV

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."
2 Corinthians 4:18, KJV

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."
Colossians 3:1-2, KJV

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of

God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:"

1 Timothy 6:6-14, KJV

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."

Hebrews 11:13-16, KJV

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

James 4:4, KJV

"Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless."

2 Peter 3:14, KJV

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

1 John 2:15-16, KJV

At this point in our discussion, you may be wondering what all of this has to do with cussing. In reality, it is all very much related. Earlier, I shared the following verses with you from the second Epistle of the Apostle Peter:

"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them."

2 Peter 2:20-21, KJV

The previous two verses perfectly describe what I did for a number of years. I knew the Lord and I knew His Word. I had been occupied in the affairs of the Kingdom for many years. However, I cooled off and returned to the vomit and the pig slop, very much like the Prodigal Son who is mentioned in Luke chapter fifteen. I did exactly what the Apostle Peter admonishes us not to do. I was just eating husks. I became entangled in the pollutions of the world again. I in fact

dirtied myself afresh. I backslid so far from the Lord, that I began to behave just like the rest of the children of the world; so much so that I acquired the bad habit of cussing occasionally. I polluted my being. I fouled my temple of the Holy Spirit. I allowed corrupt communication to proceed out of my mouth. How about you?

Please notice that in the previous verses, the Apostle Paul issues the exact same warning regarding becoming entangled again in the affairs of the world after we come to Christ. Paul writes as follows:

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."
2 Timothy 2:4, KJV

It is evident that Peter and Paul were very much in agreement regarding the issue of avoiding worldly involvement. As you should be able to see by now, if your spiritual ears and eyes are truly open to the truth, this warning to avoid worldly, secular entanglement was a core doctrine of the First Century Church. Jesus taught that we are not of this present world. Peter taught that we shouldn't be entangled in the pollutions of this world. Paul taught that we should not be entangled in the affairs of this life. The Apostle John taught that we are not to love this world, or be ensnared by all of its carnal enticements. James taught that we are not to be friends with this world, because to do so is to commit spiritual adultery. Can the message be any plainer than that?

Despite this obvious message, I have seen so many Christians today who willingly choose to ignore it. For my part, I have actively promoted this message regarding remaining unspotted and blameless for many years now. I have consistently done it in my articles, and in more recent months, I have also very actively promoted it on my Facebook timeline as well. I have no doubt that there are some people don't like it, who don't agree with it, and who are in fact offended by it. The reason why some Christians take offense at verses such as these, is because rather than agree with their selfish, secular manner of living, these verses in fact expose it for what it is.

The awful truth is that modern Christianity -- which really equates to mechanical churchianity -- has for the most part become a farce in which many Christians deem their standing in the local community, and maintaining the status quo, more important than true godly worship and holy living. They are not really sanctified and consecrated to the Lord. They have compromised their faith, in order to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Rather than come out of the world, they in fact prefer this present world. Furthermore, many of them live just like the rest of the children of the world. I am reminded of what the Apostle Paul wrote regarding Demas:

"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia."
2 Timothy 4:10, KJV

From the few things that we learn about him in the Epistles, it appears that Demas was a First Century Christian, as well

as one of the traveling companions of the Apostle Paul. Demas even seems to have accompanied Paul to Rome. Tragically, after Paul was imprisoned by Emperor Nero, Demas apparently lost his faith and decided that he really wasn't willing to die yet for Jesus Christ. Thus, he returned to Thessalonica. In contrast to Demas, consider what we read in the Book of Revelation:

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

Revelation 12:11, KJV

"They loved not their lives unto the death." What a profound statement to make. How many of us truly possess that kind of faith today? Due to our pride, we convince ourselves that we are just as dedicated as the First Century Christians. We tell ourselves -- and perhaps our friends as well -- that we would not hesitate to lay down our lives for the Lord. But is it possible that we are just deceiving ourselves?

Taking into consideration the totality of the Scriptures that I have shared with you in this series, we can extract a very clear message. This core message can easily be summarized by the following verse snippets:

"Ye are not of the world."

John 15:19, KJV

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers . . . come out from among them, and be ye separate."

2 Corinthians 6:14-18, KJV

"Love not the world."

1 John 2:15, KJV

"Friendship of the world is enmity with God."

James 4:4, KJV

"Be not conformed to this world."

Romans 12:2, KJV

"Abstain from all appearance of evil."

Thessalonians 5:22, KJV

"Be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath."

James 1:19, KJV

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth."

Ephesians 4:29, KJV

"Put off . . . filthy communication out of your mouth."

Colossians 3:8, KJV

As I likewise explain in such articles as "Light Up and Die!: The Smoking Addiction", "Pornography: Flee Youthful Lusts!" and "Halloween and Samhain: No Room For Compromise", we cannot claim to be abstaining from all appearance of evil when we are acting and talking just like all of the rest of the children of the world. We cannot claim to be spiritual lights in the world, when we are acting and talking not that much differently from the children of disobedience and the children of darkness. To claim that we are Bible-believing

Christians who are favored by God when we do these things is both a lie and a deception. It amounts to hypocrisy and self-delusion. We are pretending to be something which we are not.

Please go to part four for the conclusion of this series.

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Stop Cussing: Be Not Conformed to This World! : Part 4

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Be Doers Of The Word And Not Hearers Only, A Chaste Spotless Blameless Bride Of Christ, We Are Held To A Higher Standard, Empowered By Christ, Be Transformed By The Renewing Of Your Mind, Old Things Are Passed Away, Conclusion, Reading List

As I concluded in part three, the time has come for all of us to stop fooling ourselves by claiming to be Christians, when our lifestyle and manner of speech do not back it up. We need to start being true doers of God's Word, and not just hearers only. We need to be the chaste Bride that the Lord desires for us to be. We need to purge the old habits from our lives -- including cussing -- and become spotless and blameless in His sight. Please consider the following verses:

"Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not."

Matthew 23:1-3, KJV

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

James 1:22-25, KJV

"But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith,

Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."
James 2:20-26, KJV

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."
James 4:17, KJV

"Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."
Matthew 7:20, KJV

In summation, the children of the world need to see and know that we are truly different from them. They need to realize that God's children are held to a much higher standard, and that vulgar speech, cussing and other corrupt communication is not acceptable to the Lord, or to us. Each one of us needs to take personal initiative, repent of our evil deeds, desist in our bad habit of cussing, and get our heart and life right with the Lord. It is only in this way that we can each be an efficient conductor and reflector of the Lord's clean, strong light. As long as our temple remains polluted and dirty, and spews forth foul words, it just won't work. Not only will we be a poor example of our faith and a reproach to the Cause of Christ, but we will also be like a cloud without rain, and a lamp without oil.

Are you willing to do this? Are you ready to take control of your tongue? Are you capable of doing this? Yes you are by His Grace; because He will provide you with the strength and the self-control to achieve this goal. As the Apostle Paul writes:

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."
Philippians 4:13, KJV

The key to not conforming to the evil ways of this present world, and bridling our wicked tongue, is found in the rest of the verse that I first shared with you in part one. Paul writes as follows:

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."
Romans 12:2, KJV

Clearly then, we must be spiritually transformed through the renewing of our mind. We need to allow God to rewire my mind, our thoughts, and our behavior through the cleansing power of His Word. We need to put aside the old man of the flesh with his wicked deeds -- including cussing -- and put on the new man of the Spirit which has the mind of Christ. Consider the following verses:

"BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word."
Psalms 119:9, KJV

"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto

you."
John 15:3, KJV

"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

Romans 6:6, KJV

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

1 Corinthians 2:16, KJV

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

2 Corinthians 5:17, KJV

"That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

Ephesians 4:22-24, KJV

"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"

Colossians 3:9-10, KJV

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

Titus 3:5, KJV

Please notice that Paul writes "old things are passed away." Are the old things from your old life -- including your old bad habits such as cussing -- truly passed away? Or are there some things which still stubbornly persist in your new life in Christ despite your best efforts to purge them out? Who do people see when they look at you? Do they see your old sinful man of the flesh who gets angry and cusses all the time? Or do they see your new man of the Spirit who praises the Lord and shines brightly for Jesus Christ? The choice is up to you. Be not conformed to this world.

With these thoughts I will bring this series to a close. I hope that you have found it informative, and I pray that it has been a blessing and an inspiration in your life. Most of all, I hope that this series has provided you with both the spiritual strength and the conviction to resist cussing, for His glory.

If you have enjoyed reading this series, please consider sharing its URL with your online friends. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter or Google+, I would also appreciate if you would take the time to click on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this series, or which are related to topics which were discussed

in this series. All of them are likewise located on the
Endtime Prophecy Net web server:

Are You Crucified With Christ?
Are You Just a Baby Huey?
Churchianity or Christianity: Which Do You Practice?
Gargoyles: Satan Loves Church Buildings!
Halloween and Samhain: No Room For Compromise
Light Up and Die!: The Smoking Addiction
My God is a Shocker
One From Beyond: Hebrew of Hebrews
Pornography: Flee Youthful Lusts!
Speak the Pure Language of Truth
Striving for Perfection: Are You a Sinless Saint?
The Children of Light: Are You One of Us?
The Public School System and School Prayer
To Pray or Not to Pray
What is Wrong With Modern America?
Where Are the First Century Churches?

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