

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **Euphemisms**

"Euphemism is a human device to conceal the horrors of reality." – Paul Johnson

"Any euphemism ceases to be euphemistic after a time and the true meaning begins to show through. It's a losing game, but we keep on trying." – Joseph Wood Krutch

"Euphemisms are unpleasant truths wearing diplomatic cologne." – Quentin Crisp

"A euphemism is a generally innocuous word or expression used in place of one that may be found offensive or suggest something unpleasant. Some euphemisms are intended to amuse, while others are bland, inoffensive, and often misleading terms for things the user wishes to dissimulate or downplay. Euphemisms are used...to refer to taboo topics (such as disability, sex, excretion, and death) in a polite way, and to mask profanity." – Wikipedia

It is amazing how many people use euphemisms in their daily speech. It is a common thing in our society and people find themselves using these substitute words and think nothing of it.

Euphemisms are actually a means to get as close to profanity as possible without actually saying a curse word. One of the popular trends is to use terms such as "freaking," "freakin'," and, "frickin'," and "what the fudge?" (For example, "No freaking way.") People sooth their consciences by rationalizing that they did not actually use a word of profanity. It is disturbing enough to hear some terms used in our society, on television, etc., but then to hear it coming out of mouths of Christians, it is shameful.

For years man has sought to use euphemisms as substitutes for cursing. Terms such as, "gosh darn," "golly gee whiz," "goldarn," "darn," "tarnation," "Jeez," "Jeepers Creepers," and "What the Sam Hill?" Obviously, there is a massive list of terms that could be listed, but hopefully the thought is plain enough for us to realize that we need to be more careful about what we say.

Christians for too long have sought to get as close to the world as possible without actually being "of the world." We have rationalized ourselves into thinking that we are just like our neighbors without going over the edge. And all the while, we continue to damage our credibility.

"All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; nothing crooked or perverse is in them" (Prov. 8:8). "In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise" (Prov. 10:19). "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one" (Col. 4:6).