

"The Tongue"

Subject: "How to Stop Swearing, Lying and Irreverent Words"

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13th, 1990

- Some definitions:—
 - Swearing involves the irreverent use of God's name as a witness or party to some statement; embraces every manner of employment of God's name as a party to improper ends.
 - Profanity includes all irreverence of Holy things.
 - Blasphemy means the intentional indignity offered God or Holy things.
 - Cursing implicates God's name with another's damnation.
- Examples of swearing (Lev. 19: 12; Matthew 5: 34-37):—
 - The telling of deliberate lies under oath.
 - The use of God's name in foolish oaths.
 - The use of God's name in moments of anger.
 - The use of God's name as conversation fillers.
- The foolishness of swearing:—
 - It shows a lack of self control.
 - It indicates what is in the mind.
 - It is dishonouring to God and dishonours our lovely Lord Jesus whose love for us far exceeds the fondest mother.
 - It pollutes children's minds.
- How to overcome:—
 - Remember the sin of swearing cost Christ, Calvary.
 - The importance of the new birth.
 - Examine your verbal ejaculations in moments of surprise. Fight irreverence and swearing even more earnestly than grammatical mistakes.
 - Control anger.
 - Cultivate a sense of reverence.
- What is a lie?
 - A mistake in a statement is not a lie.
 - Action contrary to ones previous statement is not lying. (John 13: 6-9).
 - To withhold part of the truth when it is not expedient or necessary is no lie (1 Samuel 16: 2; Proverbs 11: 13).
 - Is it right to lie in order to save life? (Rahab)
- Ways of lying: Direct lying, professional lying, purgery, social lying, half truths, double meanings, mental reservations, flattery, exaggeration, pragmatic lying, advertising, lies to God.
- The mischief of lying:
 - It effects us.
 - It effects others.
 - It effects our relationship with God.

"It chills my blood to hear the blessed Supreme
Rudely appealed to on each trifling theme!
Maintain your ranks; vulgarity despise;
To swear is neither brave, polite nor wise.
You would not swear upon the bed of death;
Reflect! Your Maker now could stop your breath!"



William Cowper