

## Do You Really Know What You're Saying?

Christians are earthly representatives of Jesus Christ. Our words should display Christlike thoughts and attitudes.

Curse words and swearing should never come from our mouths. Although many Christians agree that cursing is inappropriate speech for Jesus' representatives, many Christians use "by-words." A "by-word" is actually a "nice" way of cursing.

Consider the dictionary definitions of the following "by-words." Perhaps you should eliminate "by-words" from your vocabulary.

1. "Gosh" means "God."
2. "Darn" means "Damn" or "Damned."
3. "Gosh-darn" means "God-damned."
4. "Golly" means "God."
5. "Gee" is a euphemism for "Jesus." (A euphemism is a pleasant sounding word we substitute for another word.)
6. "Heck" means "Hell."

The word "damn" is defined in the dictionary as "to condemn to punishment or hell; to bring ruin on." Obviously, this word is totally anti-Christian.

The word "hell" is defined as "an intense term of abuse." Christians do not abuse others with words; Christians bless others with their words.

Ephesians 4:29 says, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God...." So, Christian friend, our words are to: (1) encourage humans and (2) gladden the Holy Spirit.

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