

Euphemisms - cont.

- “Stretching the truth” or “exaggerating” for lying
- “Termination of pregnancy” for abortion and murder

Why Euphemisms?

Why do so many people, including Christians, use euphemisms? Many people want to get as close to the world without being just like the world (Romans 12:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17). Many don't want to be different from the world (1 Peter 4:4). Many don't want to give up their worldly friendships (James 4:4). Many don't want to be harsh or offensive (Romans 12:9). And, many don't want to call sin what it is (Isaiah 5:20).

Guard Your Tongue

In closing, here are a couple of simple rules to live by concerning your speech: Rule #1 – think before you speak (Proverbs 15:28), and Rule #2 – speak only what is edifying and thankful (Ephesians 4:29; 5:4; Colossians 4:6).

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer” (Psalm 19:14) - Chris Reeves

- Word of the Week -

“Devil” (Gr. *diabolos*) is another term or name for Satan and it means “adversary” (1 Peter 5:8). Satan, or the Devil, is your “adversary”, and as such, he is trying to stand in your way to going to heaven. He wants to put up roadblocks and stumbling blocks along your path to cause you to fall. This week, don't let the Devil do it - resist him (James 4:8)!

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

A little later the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "You really are one of them as well, since even the way you talk gives you away."

- Matthew 26:73 -

When the people standing around Peter on the night of Jesus' arrest, said that Peter had been with Jesus, Peter denied that he had been with him. However, the way he was talking did not match up with what he was claiming. They could tell that Peter was a follower of Jesus by the way he talked. His talk had given him away.

The same is true today. The way people talk gives them away - it shows what kind of person they are. When people are using cursing and profanity, it shows their poor character. And even when they use euphemisms, it shows that they are trying to be like the world around them.

Euphemisms

What is a "euphemism"? A euphemism is:

Euphemism comes from Greek *eúphēmos*, which means "uttering sounds of good omen," "fair-sounding," or "auspicious." The first part of that

root is the prefix *eu-*, meaning "good" The second part is *phēmos*, a Greek word for "speech" ... Euphemisms can take different forms, but they all involve substituting a word or phrase considered to be less offensive than another. The substituted word might, for example, be viewed as a less coarse choice, as when *dang* or *darn* is used instead of *damn* or *damned*. Or it might replace a word viewed as insulting to a religious figure, such as the various euphemisms for *God* (*gad*, *gadzooks*, *gosh*) or *Jesus* (*gee*, *jeepers*, *jeez*). A euphemism may also consist of an indirect softening phrase that is substituted for the straightforward naming of something unpalatable. Thus, we hear of people being "let go" rather than "fired" ... (Source: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/euphemism>)

Christians and Euphemisms

Christians are to guard their speech (Proverbs 21:23; Matthew 12:36; Ephesians 4:29; 5:4; Colossians 4:6; Tit. 2:8; James 1:26; 3:9-12; 1 Peter 3:10-12).

Many Christians (and others) would never think of using words of cursing, profanity, obscenity or vulgarity. Yet, many will use "euphemisms" – the substitution of a mild, indirect, or vague expression for one thought to be offensive, harsh, or

blunt.

Euphemisms and Cursing

Many people will substitute a euphemism for a curse word ...

- Heck for hell
- Darn for damn
- Gosh or golly for God
- Doggone for G__d ___
- Gee or gee-whiz for Jesus
- Crikey for Christ

Euphemisms and Sinful Conduct

Many people will substitute a euphemism for a sinful activity to make the activity sound better ...

- "Alternative lifestyle" for homosexuality
- "Live in" or "affair" for adultery and fornication
- "Lady of the evening" for prostitution
- "Disease" or "alcoholism" for drunkenness
- "Revenue enhancement" or "gaming" for gambling - *continued*