

Can cussing keep you out of Heaven?

1. James 3:1-10: “Not many of you should presume to be teachers (**DIDASKO**: ‘to give instructions’), my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.

When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise the tongue in a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, set the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we **curse** (**KATARAOMAI**: ‘to pray against, to wish evil against a person or thing; hence to curse.’) men, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.”

2. Colossians 3:7,8: “You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and **filthy language** (**AISCHROLOGIA**: ‘any kind of base utterance of an uncontrolled tongue, filthy communication...shameful speaking...foul or filthy speaking’) from your lips.”

3. Ephesians 4:29: “Do not let any **unwholesome** (KJV says ‘corrupt’) talk come out of your mouths...” What is considered “corrupt” or “unwholesome talk”?

A. Ephesians continues to explain in 5:3,4: “But among you there must **not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk, or coarse joking, which are out of place...For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person...has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them. For you were once in the darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light!**”

1. “**Obscenity**” is the Greek word **AISCHROTES**, which translates: “**all that is contrary to what is pure. Obscene.**”

2. “**foolish talk**” is the Greek word **MOROLOGIA**, which translates: “**talk that is foolish or stupid.**” (Degrading, embarrassing, or making fun of people).

3. “**coarse joking**” is the Greek word **EUTRAPELIA**, which translates: “**coarse joking** (dirty or obscene jokes, usually with sexual overtones).”

4. Matthew 5:21-22: “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you anyone who is **angry** with his brother will be subject to judgment (see **outline on Anger**). Again, anyone who says to his brother ‘**Raca**,’ is answerable to the Sanhedrin (Jewish Supreme Court). But anyone who says, ‘**You fool!**’ will be in danger of the fire of Hell.”

A. “Anger” is the Greek word “ORGE.” Ephesians 4:26-32 tell us: “In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold...Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths...Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” SEE STUDY OUTLINE ON ANGER.

B. “Raca” is an Aramaic word, RAKA, meaning: “utter contempt, signifying empty, intellectually rather than morally, empty-headed.” Obviously, if you could prove this, you could take away their rights to govern their own affairs in a court of law.

C. “You fool” is the Greek word MOROS, meaning: “morally worthless, a scoundrel, a more serious reproach than ‘Raca;’ the latter scorns a man’s mind and calls him stupid; MOROS scorns his heart and character.” To call a person “you fool” or “moros,” would be to condemn him to Hell (“damn you,” or “go to Hell.”)

1. Why would saying such a thing to someone put you, yourself, in danger of going to Hell? Matthew 7:1,2: “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

2. So, if you condemn someone to hell, you are condemning yourself! Luke 6:37: “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.”

5. Exodus 20:7: “You will not misuse (take in vain) the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name.”

A. That means saying, “Oh, God...” or “My God”, or any phrase that has God’s name in it is a sin that comes with a punishment, unless you are actually talking or referring to Him! His name is Holy and reverend, and is not a by-word, or cuss word (God D—).

6. James 1:26: “If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.

A. Why? James 3:1,2: “Not many of you should presume to be teachers (*didasko*: “to give instructions”), my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways...” **So, what kind of language are you teaching others...like your children?**

B. Luke 17:1-3: “Jesus said to His disciples: ‘Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come. It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin. So watch yourselves!’”

1. II Corinthians 6:3: “We put no stumbling block in anyone’s path, so that our ministry will not be discredited.”

C. James 3:9-12: “With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brother, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.” **You can’t be a Christian and still talk like a sinner!**

7. Matthew 12:33-37: “Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. **For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.**”

A. Want to be “acquitted”? **Romans 10:9,10:** “That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with our heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”