

## PROFANITY

LORD MAITREYA. In your description of profanity, you find the words to define what it is that is a part of the Christ walk whether it is from the Bible or the Pearls of Wisdom that the rules have a practicality and wisdom.

### Example

 **Re: What is the catholic position on cursing or swearing?**

Is Bad Language a Sin?

Q: Is using inappropriate language sinful?

A: Yes. Using inappropriate language is sinful. However, let's look at each segment of the all encompassing term of "inappropriate language". **These segments include using God's name in vain, cursing, blaspheming, and profanity.**

The second Commandment specifically forbids using God's name in vain: "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain" (Ex 20:7; Dt 5:11). Therefore, one of the three criteria for a mortal sin is clearly in place – it is a serious sin. If the other two conditions are in place – deliberately doing the action and knowledge that it is wrong – then taking God's name in vain is a mortal sin, which deprives the soul of sanctifying grace. Saying "O my [God's name]" without reason and in a vain manner is using God's name in vain. And, if a person dies in mortal sin, he/she will indeed go to Hell.

Names are greatly important as Sacred Scripture reveals in Revelations 2:17, 3:5, 3:12, and 22:4. The name given to the Lord, however, is above every other name (Ph. 2:10-11). In the Old Testament, "Out of respect for the holiness of God, the people of Israel [did] not pronounce His name [Yahweh]. In the reading of Sacred Scripture, the reveal name is replaced by the divine title "Lord". It is under this title that the divinity of Jesus will be acclaimed: 'Jesus is Lord'" (CCC 209). In the Gospels, Jesus's divine name is mentioned numerous times including Matthew 1:21, 7:22, 18:20; Luke 1:31; Mark 9:38, 16:17; and John 14:13. Thus, Jesus's name is deserving of all praise, and taking God's name in vain is a mortal sin.

**Cursing** is likewise a mortal sin. Cursing is defined as calling down evil from God usually by invoking God's holy name. Using such horrible expressions, the person calls on God to send a soul to Hell and/or inflict punishment on a person. How can we actually do such a horrendous thing – ask God to send a soul to Hell? Cursing is quite clearly also a mortal sin.

**Blasphemy** is "a contempt for God, expressed in thought, word or action." As the Catechism of the Catholic Church clearly states: "The second commandment forbids the abuse of God's name, i.e., every improper use of the names of God, Jesus, but also of the Virgin Mary and all the saints... It consists in uttering against God –inwardly or outwardly – words of hatred, reproach, or defiance; in speaking ill of God; in failing in respect toward him in one's speech; in misusing God's name. St. James condemns those 'who blaspheme that honorable name [of Jesus] by which you are called'" (CCC 2146, 2148). The CCC continues by stating, "The prohibition of blasphemy extends to language against Christ's Church, the saints, and sacred things. It is also blasphemous to make use of God's name to cover up criminal practices, to reduce peoples to servitude, to torture persons or put them to death... Blasphemy is contrary to the respect due to God and His holy name. It is in itself a grave sin" (CCC 2148). Thus, with such a clear message, blasphemy must always be stopped because it is a mortal sin.

And finally, we are forced to ask ourselves if **profanity**, like the three proceeding concerns is a mortal sin. And profanity can indeed be a mortal sin if done with great anger against another person. Language is a gift from God. It should be used wisely and not laden with profanities that are impolite, vulgar, and negative. We should always avoid profanity too and live following the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints. They have reached Heaven, if we imitate them, we too shall reach the throne of God.

I conclude with words of admonishment from Sacred Scripture: **"If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, his religion is vain" (James 1:26).**

<http://catholiclife.blogspot.com/2011/03/sin.html>

## VULGARITY

Definitions:

Source: Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary (1913)

Vulgarity

n : the quality of lacking taste and refinement [syn: coarseness, commonness, grossness, vulgarism]

Vulgarity \Vul\*gar"i\*ty\, n. [Cf. F. vulgarit[e], L. vulgaritas the multitude.]

1. The quality or state of being vulgar; mean condition of life; the state of the lower classes of society. --Sir T. Browne.
2. Grossness or clownishness of manners of language; absence of refinement; coarseness.

"Cursing", "Swearing" and "profanity" would mean obscenities.