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In answering this question about bad language being a sin, we must first clarify what is meant by "bad language being a sin, we must first clarify what is meant by "bad language being a sin, we must first clarify what is meant by "bad language being a sin, we must first clarify what is meant by "bad language being a sin, we must first clarify what is meant by "bad language being a sin, we must first clarify what is meant by "bad language being a sin, we must first clarify what is meant by "bad language being a sin, we must first clarify what is meant by "bad language being a sin, we must first clarify what is meant by "bad language being a sin, we must first clarify what is meant by "bad language being a sin, we must first clarify what is meant by "bad language being a sin, we must first clarify what is meant by "bad language being a sin, we must first clarify what is meant by "bad language being a sin, we must first clarify what is meant by "bad language."
plain old profanity. In general, the Second Commandment governs this area: "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain" (Ex 20:7; Dt 5:11). Specifically, a person must have respect for God's name. Throughout Sacred Scripture, God's name is held sacred. He reveals His name to those who believe, and through this revelation, invites
them to an intimate and personal relationship. For example, in the story of the call of Moses, he asked God, "...If they ask me, 'What is His name?' what am I to tell them? God replied, 'I am who am.' Then He added, 'This is what you shall tell the Israelites: 'The
Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Isaa
Himself (See Catechism, No. 4142ff.). Given this foundation, certain forms of abusive language are sinful. First, to abuse God's name, whether the word God, Jesus, or in some other form, is objectively mortally sinful. The same rule applies to abusing the name of the Blessed Mother or the saints. One has to ask oneself, "Why would someone use the
name Jesus as an expletive when angry or impatient? Would not such an action show an arrogant and disrespectful attitude toward God, whom we should love above all things?" I often wonder what a Moslem must think when he hears a Christian use God's name in such an irreverent and improper way. Second, blasphemy is also a sin. Blasphemy is
contempt for God, expressed in thought, word or action. To use words either vocally or mentally against God which show hatred, reproach, disrespect or defiance is sinful. This prohibition also applies to the Blessed Mother and the saints as well as sacred things or Church related practices. Moreover, blasphemy includes invoking God's name to
legitimize crimes or harmful actions against others. The Catechism notes that blasphemy is a grave sin. Third, cursing is to call down evil from God, and usually involves specifically involves specifically involves specifically involves. The Catechism notes that blasphemy is a grave sin. Third, cursing is to call down evil from God, and usually involves specifically involves specifically involves.
is all powerful, all good, and all just, to damn someone (or something) in Hell for all eternity. Who are we to ask God to damn anyone or to bestow some evil upon them? Objectively, this act is a mortal sin. Finally, profanity itself is wrong, even though such words may not specifically involve the name of God. God gave mankind the gift of language
which should be used positively. Language should build good relationships with other individuals, and enable people to share their lives intimately with each other. Sadly, more and more, we hear in normal conversation profanity especially those four letter words, like s*** and f***. We also hear people speak profanely about good and holy topics; for
example, they profane human sexuality or the act of marital love. Such language is not only negative, vulgar, impolite and offensive, but also debases the dignity of each human being. Moreover, this language reveals not only a person's bad attitude and lack of respect for others, but also his own immaturity and insecurity in dealing with others. In
using these words, the person builds barriers rather than bridges with another person. Take for instance the word Hell. First of all, no one should make light of Hell!"; in greeting, "How the hell are you?"; or in inquiry,
"What the hell are you doing here? Or, "What the hell are you doing?" No only are these various usages demonstrative of poor English, they show a lack of respect for what Hell is. Perhaps if a person really believed he could end up in Hell, he would not be so casual in using the term. Each of us needs to be careful in our use of language. Objectively,
using God's name in vain, cursing and blasphemy are mortally sinful, although lack of due reflection or habit can diminish culpability. Profanity too can be mortally sinful when done with great anger or viciousness against another person. St.
James wisely admonished, "Every form of life, four-footed or winged, crawling or swimming, can be tamed, and has been tamed, by mankind; the tongue no man can tame. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. We use it to say, 'Praised be the Lord and Father'; then we use it to curse men, though they are made in the likeness of God. Blessing and
curse come out of the same mouth. This ought not to be, my brothers!" (Jas 3:7-10). Saunders, Rev. William. "Why is bad language a sin?" Arlington Catholic Herald. This article is reprinted with permission from Arlington Catholic Herald. This article is reprinted with permission from Arlington Catholic Herald. This article is reprinted with permission from Arlington Catholic Herald. This article is reprinted with permission from Arlington Catholic Herald. This article is reprinted with permission from Arlington Catholic Herald. This article is reprinted with permission from Arlington Catholic Herald. This article is reprinted with permission from Arlington Catholic Herald. This article is reprinted with permission from Arlington Catholic Herald. This article is reprinted with permission from Arlington Catholic Herald. This article is reprinted with permission from Arlington Catholic Herald. This article is reprinted with permission from Arlington Catholic Herald. This article is reprinted with permission from Arlington Catholic Herald. This article is reprinted with permission from Arlington Catholic Herald. This article is reprinted with permission from Arlington Catholic Herald. This article is reprinted with permission from Arlington Catholic Herald. This article is reprinted with permission from Arlington Catholic Herald. This article is reprinted with permission from Arlington Catholic Herald. This article is reprinted with permission from Arlington Catholic Herald. This article is reprinted with permission from Arlington Catholic Herald.
gosh, golly, heck, darn, dang, etc. the same as saying the "bad" words? I hear lots of Christians say these words. Are they wrong? Here is a good question. This shows that someone out their speech upon others.
The passage that comes to my mind immediately is Ephesians 4:29 which says, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." From this passage we learn that "corrupt" speech is not to be spoken by the Christian. The Christian's speech is to be for
edifying, that is, building each other up. The Christian's speech is to serve grace or favor to those who hear it. Herein lies the standard for our speech and communication patterns. There are three ways in which we can use speech in a corrupt way. First of all we can utter a curse upon something. This is basically what Jesus condemns in Matthew 5:22
"But I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire." To curse another person or even to curse God's creation is a sin against God. God made the
earth and people as a blessing. We ought to respect God's blessing and not curse it. The second way in which we can corrupt speech is by using God's name in vain. God told the Israelites in Exodus 20:7 "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." This principle is
still true today. God does not want us to refer to Him in a vain or empty way. He is God and deserves our constant and complete respect that God deserves. The third way in which we can corrupt speech is by taking something that God has made holy and make it common. The sexual
relationship is one such example. God made that relationship to be holy, that is, set apart-between husband and wife. If we speak concerning that relationship as if it is just another common activity then we denigrate it. Many today speak of such matters in a flippant and joking way. Such should not be named among the people of God. Ephesians 5:3,
4 says, "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; New, all of your so called "curse" words fit into one of these three categories. So where do the word in your question fall into
these three categories? When we are unsure of the meaning of words, the best place to go is to the dictionary. When I looked up "gosh" it said that it was a euphemism for "hell." The words "damn" and "dang" are euphemisms for the word "damn." The word
euphemism means the following: "the substitution of an agreeable or inoffensive expression for one that most consider offensive, but the meaning of the word is the same. So there is no change in meaning when we use a
euphemism. Let me offer an example. Suppose I was to approach someone who was sensitive about their loss of hair and say that they were really getting on in their bald head. Most would likely take offense at such a serious expression. However, suppose I was to approach someone who was sensitive about their loss of hair and say that they were really getting on in their bald head. Most would likely take offense at such a serious expression.
his cranial structure, anterior to the sagittal suture and posterior to the lambdoidal suture, where said follicle appendages habitually germinate." More than likely one would say that he is getting a little "thin on top." The one is a euphemism for the other. The design is to be less offensive, but the meaning is the same. So think about those three
categories of corrupt speech: the curse, using God's name in vain, and making common something that is holy. Are any of these words that we can see that they are and as such would be in that category of forbidden speech that Paul described as
"corrupt communication." The euphemism itself (gosh, golly, dang, darn, etc.) is really just a milder way to utter a curse or use God's name in vain. Such corrupt speech ought not to cross the lips of the Christian. Cursing or using offensive language is something we hear pretty much around us as we hear it as a way for others to communicate.
However, in religious contexts, questions arise about the moral implications of such behavior. We all know cursing is not something good, but do you ever wonder if cursing is a sin? This post will explore the Catholic Church's perspective on cursing and shed light on the underlying principles and considerations. Words have the ability to shape
thoughts, emotions, and relationships. The Catholic Church teaches that language should be used responsibly and with respect for oneself and others. While the Church does not explicitly label cursing as a sin, it places great emphasis on the commandment to love one's neighbor and to avoid actions that harm or offend them. Cursing, particularly
when it involves taking the Lord's name in vain, can be seen as a violation of the second commandment: "You shall not take the name of God is sacred and should be used with reverence and respect. Using profanity or engaging in blasphemous speech can be considered a form of
disrespect towards God and his creation. Furthermore, the Catholic Church encourages believers to strive for holiness and to imitate the virtues of Christ. This includes cultivating a pure heart, controlling one's tongue, and using language that builds up rather than tears down. Cursing, which often involves derogatory or offensive language,
contradicts these virtues and the call to love and respect others. It is important to note that the Church recognizes the complexity of language and the role of cultural and societal norms. What may be universally
recognized as offensive, others may carry different connotations depend on the intention behind the words and the impact they have on others. Cursing used to insult, demean, or harm others is more likely to be viewed as sinful than the casual or unintentional use of strong
language. The Church encourages individuals to consider the effect their words may have on others and to strive for charitable and respectful communication. To foster virtuous speech, the Catholic Church encourages believers to cultivate a deep relationship with God through prayer and the sacraments. It is through this relationship that individuals
can develop self-control, discipline, and a desire to use language that reflects their faith and values. In conclusion, while cursing is not explicitly labeled as a sin in the Catholic Church, the Church emphasizes the importance of using language responsibly and with respect for oneself and others. Cursing can be seen as a violation of the commandment
to love one's neighbor and the call to imitate Christ's virtues. The Church encourages believers to strive for purity of heart and to use language that builds up rather than tears down. By cultivating a deep relationship with God and seeking to align their speech with their faith, individuals can strive for virtuous and respectful communication. The
words like: damn, darn, doom, drat, hell... Which of these are "curse words"? When are they appropriate for Christians to use in speech, if they are? What does the Bible say about such words? Bible Answer: God has given us a high standard that should govern our lives. A previous question and answer has addressed some of the principles in your
question. It is titled, "One of my weaknesses right now is my mouth. What can I do?" . . . and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. Ephesians 5:4 (NASB) In this verse we discover that we are to avoid "filthiness," "silly talk," and "coarse jesting." The Greek word that is translated
as "filthiness" is aiochrotes. It refers to a "shameful, indecent, or obscene speech that is "dull, stupid, and foolish." This type of speech is characteristic of a drunkard or ancient pirate. It is sometimes referred to as low
obscenity, foolish talk that comes from the drunk or the gutter mouth. It has no point except to give an air of dirty worldliness. 1 The Greek word that is translated as "coarse jesting" is eutrapelia. It refers to suggestive, crude or obscene language. This type of speech usually occurs on talk shows, and comedy programs." It includes sinful humor and
"refined sin." The sense of the word here is polished and witty speech as the instrument of sin. 2 The words that you mention are not fitting words. We can express ourselves using normal English words. Why use such language when the English language has enough words to
communicate our thoughts? Such words are usually avoided in the business world, among professionals, and in churches. Unfortunately, we are hearing them more frequently in the media. They are more common in the late comedy programs, movies containing sex and violence, and the world of fiction. Conclusion: I will end with a passage that I have
attempted to follow. It reminds us how we should speak. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person. (NASB) Colossians 4:6 Our speech should be seasoned with grace and have the fragrance of Jesus Christ. References: 1. John MacArthur. Ephesians. The Mac
Arthur New Testament Commentary, Moody Press. 1986, cp. 201. 2. Kenneth West. Ephesians and Colossi. West.'s Word Studies. Germans Publishing Co. 1973, cp. 121. Suggested Links: One of my weaknesses right now is my mouth. What can I do? What is the meaning of "coarse jesting" or "jesting" in Ephesians 5:4? One of my weaknesses right
now is my mouth. What can I do? How To Be Filled With The Spirit Frequently Asked Questionsregarding THE SIN OF SWEARING. Q. 1. What does the Catholic Church teach about the sin of swearing are
sinful. Is it? Or is it just a personal opinion? A. 1. First of all, as christians, our every action should serve the purpose of building up the Body of Christ. Swearing does not edify anyone. It does not foster intelligent conversation. For some people, foul language refers to everything from taking the Lord's Most Holy Name in vain, to cursing, to blasphemy
or to just plain old profanity. According to the Second Commandment of God, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain." [Ex. 20:7; Dt. 5:11] More specifically, a person must have respect for God's Name. Throughout the Sacred Scripture, the Name of God is held Sacred. He reveals His Name to those who believe, and through this
revelation, invites them to an intimate and personal relationship. How can you have an intimate and personal relationship with God when you keep using His Name loosely as a meaningless form of expression. Do not let this bad habit creep into your speech. The Second Commandment does not stop at showing respect for the Name of God. We are
expected to show respect to all of God's creations, Mother Mary, the Saints, they are a reflection of what is in the heart, a total disrespect for God
and His creations. Regarding those who swear, the Bible says: "Death and life are in the power of the heart the mouth speaks. A good person brings forth good out of a store of goodness, but an evil person brings forth evil out of a
store of evil." [Mt. 12:34-36] "For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned." [Mt 12:37] Is saying "damn" just a common thing we do today? Or does it really go against what Christians believe? With more and more people using bad words in movies and TV, it's important to think about if Christians can say
 "damn". Looking into the Bible's view on words and bad language is key. We need to understand the moral side of using such words. This helps us see how our words show our faith. Understanding the Context of Language in Christianity Language in Christianity is a big topic. It shows both history and culture. It's not just talking; it shows our faith
and values. What we say can honor or dishonor God. So, we must think about our words. The Bible says our words matter a lot, like in Ephesians 5:3-5. Today, Christians face challenges with words like "shoot" and "crap." The Bible shows Jesus and Paul used strong words too. But they used them in special situations. Christians are asked to thinly
about their words carefully. We should speak with love and humility. This is what the Bible teaches. For more on this, check out the conversation about cussing. It shows how important. It involves studying biblical language and its role
in Christian ethics. The Bible shows that words are powerful, showing what we believe and value. Many theologians say that language is key to sharing our faith. It's vital for being true to ourselves and for showing our faith to others. In faith communities, the use of bad words are powerful, showing our faith. It's vital for being true to ourselves and for showing our faith to others. In faith communities, the use of bad words are powerful, showing our faith. It's vital for being true to ourselves and for showing our faith to others. In faith communities, the use of bad words are powerful, showing our faith. It's vital for being true to ourselves and for showing our faith to others. In faith communities, the use of bad words are powerful, showing our faith to others. In faith communities, the use of bad words are powerful, showing our faith to others. In faith communities, the use of bad words are powerful, showing our faith to others. In faith communities, the use of bad words are powerful, showing our faith to others. In faith communities, the use of bad words are powerful, showing our faith to others. In faith communities, the use of bad words are powerful, showing our faith to other the use of bad words are powerful, showing our faith to other the use of bad words are powerful and the use of bad wo
that's not fitting for their faith. This shows a gap between what they say and what the Bible teaches. Teaching says that even simple words can also miss the mark of God's standards. This idea makes us think about how our words affect us and
others. It's not just about what we say, but how it impacts our faith and community. The Bible talks about different kinds of language is deep. It's not just about what we say, but how it shows our faith. By understanding and living out Christian
teachings on language, we can change how we talk. We can show the love and grace that the Bible teaches. Can Christians Say Damn? An In-Depth Analysis Can Christian speech. Many think saying "God damn it" breaks a big
rule, about 80% do. Some experts, around 60%, say this rule is often misunderstood. This makes talking about speech patterns in Christian settings tricky. Saying things like "God bless" at the end of emails can also raise questions. Looking at how "damn" has been used over time shows different views. The Bible teaches us to be careful with our
words. It warns against using God's name lightly, just like the Israelites were told. Thinkers like Aquinas talk about sin and punishment. They say our words show what's in our heart. Using bad words can hurt the moral values Christians hold dear. So, using words like "damn" needs thought and careful consideration. They say our words show what's in our heart.
the Bible The Bible teaches us about the power of words. It shows how words can deeply affect people and groups. James 3:10 tells us to be careful with our words can make things better or worse. Ephesians 4:29 tells us to speak
kindly to others, showing we care about them. When we talk, our words can make things better or worse. Matthew 12:36-37 reminds us we will be judged for our words are very powerful. It helps us build a community based on respect and understanding. By
choosing our words wisely, we show love and support, which is key to being a Christian. Guidelines for Speech: Principles from Scripture The Bible gives us clear biblical guidelines for what kind of words we should use. Christians should talk in ways that show their faith. Ephesians 5:4 tells us to stay away from bad words that harm our souls.
Ephesians 5:4 and the Call for Fitting Speech Ephesians 5:4 says we should use fitting speech. It tells us to avoid "filthiness," "silly talk," and "coarse jesting." These words show what kind of talk is not for followers of Christ. We should talk in ways that lift others up, not tear them down. This is what God wants for His people. It shows we care about
grace and respect in how we speak. James 3:10: The Duality of Blessing and Cursing James 3:10 warns us about using our mouth for both good and bad. It reminds us that bad words can hurt our relationship with God. Today, bad words are everywhere, even in public places. This makes it hard for Christians to follow the speech principles from the
Bible. We need to avoid using bad words. Instead, we should talk in ways that honor God. Profanity and Public Perception: A Christian's Dilemma Profanity is a big problem for Christians. It affects how people see them. Words shape our relationships and how we connect with others. Impact of Language on Relationships Words matter a lot in our
community. Ephesians 4:29 tells us to use uplifting words. This means choosing our words wisely. Swearing is common, even in places like schools. It can make it hard for Christians should be a good example. 1 Peter 3:10 talks about using
wholesome speech. George Washington thought swearing was bad. By not using bad words, Christians can show their values. They can tell stories that are real but not offensive. This helps build strong connections. Language as a Reflection of Inner Values Language shows what's inside our hearts. It shows our true beliefs and what we really mean
Matthew 15:11 says our words come from our heart. This shows how important it is to keep our heart positive. The Heart's Influence on Speech (Matthew 15:11) Matthew 15:11 talks about how our heart positive. The Heart's Influence on Speech (Matthew 15:11) matthew 15:11 talks about how our heart positive. The Heart's Influence on Speech (Matthew 15:11) matthew 15:11 talks about how our heart positive.
This verse tells us to think about what our words say about us. When we believe in something, our words can help others. Ephesians 4:29 says we should speak kindly to others. This shows how important it is to watch what we say. It says, "Set a guard over my
mouth, Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips." This shows we need to be careful with our words. Being mindful and in control helps us speak the truth. By following these teachings, we can use our words wisely and truly. Cultural Influences on Language Choices The way Christians talk has changed over time. This change comes from the culture
around us. It shows how faith and culture mix in our words. The Shift in Language Among Believers Over Time More pastors now use bad words sometimes. This change shows a shift in what's okay to say. Before, they wouldn't use certain words at all. Now, saying "I love the sinner but I hate the sin" is common. It shows a new way to talk about right
and wrong. Christians often talk about being around "good Christian people." This shows how community shapes our words and values. Culture affects more than just words. It changes whole ideas and beliefs. Many Christians say "It's all in God's plan" when things get tough. This shows a strong link between faith and personal feelings. The Bible
teaches us to be careful with our words. It says we should speak kindly and avoid bad jokes. These teachings guide how Christians talk in tough conversations. Christian language keeps changing with society. This change makes our words more diverse and interesting. It shows the ongoing mix of old and new in how we express ourselves. Practical
Steps to Navigate Language in a Christian Life Christians want to use words that are positive and good. Ephesians 5:3-4 tells us to avoid saying things that are foolish or rude. This helps us talk in a way that is kind and respectful. It makes our conversations better for
everyone. It's also important to control what we say. Matthew 15:11 says our words can harm us. Talking about things that are good, like in Philippians 4:8, is a good idea. This way, we can share our words carefully,
depending on who we are with. This shows we care about how we speak. By being careful with our words, we follow our faith. We also show others how to be kind and honest in tough situations. Using the word "damn" depends on your beliefs and the situation. The Bible tells us to think about our words and how they affect others. It's key to make
sure our language shows respect and kindness. The Bible says we should speak kindly and with respect. Ephesians 5:4 warns against using bad words or jokes. We should make sure our words reveal our heart. So, Christians should speak in a way
that honors God and shows their faith. Yes, theologians say words are very important. They believe our language shows our faith and values. This means we should choose words that are uplifting and true to our beliefs. James 3:10 warns about using bad words and then good ones. It teaches us to speak kindly and avoid hurting others with our words
This helps us build better relationships. Bad language can make non-believers see Christians in a bad light. It might stop them from wanting to talk about faith. Psalm 141:3 reminds us to be careful with our words. This is important for living a life that
honors God. Changes in culture and society have shaped how Christians speak. As times change, so does what is considered acceptable. This has led to changes in Christians can choose better words by avoiding bad language over the years. Christians can choose better words by avoiding bad language and using kind ones. Reading the Bible and talking to other believers can help. This way,
our words can reflect our faith well. Rockin' the faith, one verse at a time! Growing up, the Bible's stories deeply impacted me. Now, with over 15 years of preaching experience, I blend timeless teachings with modern technology, making them relevant for today's world. Bible Hub Verse is my platform to share historical insights and thought-
provoking articles, exploring both familiar and uncommon Christian topics. My passion is building a welcoming online space for everyone to learn, grow in their faith, and discover the Bible's enduring message. Join the journey! God bless you. Reddit and its partners use cookies and similar technologies to provide you with a better experience. By
accepting all cookies, you agree to our use of cookies to deliver and maintain our services and site, improve the quality of Reddit, personalize Reddit content and advertising, and measure the effectiveness of advertising. By rejecting non-essential cookies, Reddit may still use certain cookies to ensure the proper functionality of our platform. For more
information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy. Q: Is using inappropriate language is sinful. However, let's look at each segment of the all-encompassing term of "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' 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' 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 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 or outwa
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 by 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 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). Sources: Saunders, Rev. William. "Why is bad
language a sin?" Arlington Catholic Herald. Walsh, Monsignor Vincent M. The Ten Commandments Merion Station, PA: Key of David Publications, 2000. Years ago when I was a proud avionics technician in the Air Force I made a decision to follow Jesus and realized there was a lot in my life that needed amending. One of those things was the profane
language I often used. I had about a decade of training in foulmouthery, and being part of a group of people who didn't blink at cuss words and crude language didn't help my personal reform. I can remember one day I broke a tiny bolt off the bulkhead that held together a wiring harness—no big deal. We called out the structural guys and they would
perform a twenty-four-hour modification to make the bolt like new. The next morning, I grabbed my torque wrench and got started on the fix again. What did I do next? Let's just say that I repeated a four-letter-word about forty times fast. On the fortieth repetition, I recalled that I had been
trying to stop cussing for the rest of my life and then feeling a huge amount of shame, for I had just been witnessing to my battle buddy about my recent conversion. He said he didn't mind. Years later I lost a pretty nice size northern pike to an easy mistake, and after cussing myself and apologizing for my language a Christian friend of mine reassured
me that it was okay to cuss. Is it? What about just a little, or in a joke? If I hit my thumb with a hammer, would it be a sin to utter an expletive? What can I say to the guy who just cut me off in traffic? As I'll show you, the Bible and the Church take this matter seriously. Cursing, swearing, and cussing First, I should make sure we're using the same
language when talking about bad language. The Catholic Encyclopedia defines "cursing" as "call[ing] down evil upon God or creatures, rational or irrational, living or dead." A curse, the encyclopedia provides, can be a general curse for ill-fate or could involve the weather, earth, and disasters. We also distinguish taking the Lord's name in vain from
the way we use it to curse others: one is a violation of the second commandment, the other is a combination of breaking the commandment and profanity. Profanity has the same meaning as cussing, and we all know what profanities are, so there is no need to provide examples. What does the Bible say? Profanities are hurtful, blasphemous, vulgar,
wicked, and uncouth. They are the worst things that can come from our mouths, and the Bible warns to the effect of this truth: Colossians 3:8 "But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouths, but only such as is good for edifying, as fits the occasion,
that it may impart grace to those who hear." James 3:10 "From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brethren, this ought not to be so." Several verses from the New and Old Testaments warn of the destruction in crude, defiling language, or even poor choice of words. Matthew 15:11 "[It is] not what goes into the mouth defiles a man, but
what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man." Ephesians 5:1-33 "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." Proverbs 8:13 "The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate."
The Bible's words demand no elucidation: what we say matters! Why? There's a number of good reasons, but the primary reason Christians shouldn't use profanity is because the Bible tells us without doubt that profanity is because the Bible tells us without doubt that profanity is comparable to malice and slander, should never be repeated, and contradicts blessing—a principal act of Christ's followers. God
created the entire universe by speaking, and as creatures made in the image of God and having the Holy Spirit in us, it is our charge to be co-creators of goodwill and blessings, not defamations. What about swearing? Occasionally, too, some will say we ought not to swear, as in making oaths. This can get confusing when the Bible seems
contradictory. In some places Scripture admonishes us to keep the oaths that we make. For example, Numbers 30:2 tells us, "When a man vows a vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word; he shall not b
prophets and law—said: But I say to you, do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from
evil (Matt. 5:34-37). Does this mean we shouldn't make promises or oaths? This question impact many events so familiar to us: military oaths, the inaugural oath of office, wedding vows, and even the penitential act of contrition we recite in the Sacrament of Confession. Don't sweat: not all oaths are immoral. As Tim Staples points out, Jesus honored
the oath the high priest placed him under in Matthew 26:63: "I adjure thee by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." Tim explains, "If Jesus taught oaths to be unlawful or immoral, he would not have responded or he would have protested and made clear that he did not agree with the concept of oaths." Jesus used hyperbole to
make the point that Christians are bound—and indeed judged—by what they promise, or what they promise on. The Catechism is clear that we are never to use God's name in a foul way: "The second commandment forbids the abuse of God's name, i.e., every improper use of the names of God,
Jesus Christ, but also of the Virgin Mary and all the saints" (2146). The Catechism also is agreeable with Scripture regarding swears of the oaths-type: Promises made to others in God's name engage the divine honor, fidelity, truthfulness, and authority. They must be respected in justice. To be unfaithful to them is to misuse God's name and in some
way to make God out to be a liar... The second commandment forbids false oaths. Taking an oath or swearing is to take God as witness to what one affirms. It is to invoke the divine truthfulness as a pledge of one's own truthfulness. An oath engages the Lord's name. "You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve him, and swear by his name"
(CCC 2147, 2150). Other than the texts cited above from the Catechism, the Church doesn't speak directly on the use of profanity. The teaching in demonstrable from biblical texts alone. What's the bottom line? Sometimes we say things we don't mean, words slip, or we don't realize the full weight of what something means. Other times, we make
promises we don't intend to keep, or we're hypocrites. We should remember that what we say matters. We are called to not conform to the world (Rom. 12:2), and we are called to a very high standard of living (Phil. 4:8). We should use words that build up people and the kingdom of God, not words that destroy and curse. To take it a step further,
 "Avoid such godless chatter, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness" (2 Tim. 2:16). Before you speak or make an oath, remember Jesus' promise: "I tell you, on the day of judgment men will render account for every careless word they utter; for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matt. 12:36)
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