

Essay on Profanity

By Dan Jensen (2024)

(In order to fully benefit from this essay, I recommend reading through my “works for beginners” first. They can be found on my website.)

Today, almost all Americans who profess some variety of “Evangelicalism” also believe that there is nothing sinful about profanity. I have personally encountered countless examples of this, especially among younger folks. And this type of behavior is rampant within celebrity culture. I am a sports guru. I have loved sports, especially basketball and football, for as long as I can remember myself. I, to this day, still watch far too much sports. So, I speak with some very real knowledge on this subject. Professional athletes in our day will go on and on about “Jesus.” Many attend churches that are orthodox, but simply do not practice church discipline in any robust manner. Many have tattoos about the faith. Many have jewelry about the faith. Many post all sorts of things about the faith on social media. Many will talk about “Jesus” in interviews, at awards ceremonies, in documentaries, and other venues. Many will point to the heavens in thanks after making a big play. Yet, on and off the field/court/ice, they routinely use the worst sorts of profanity as if there is nothing wrong with this. This is a huge problem in our society right now. It is why I believe that so much of our culture is Liberal Protestant without realizing it. Please read my essay on the spirit of Liberal Protestantism for more on this. It can be found on my website.

I am not saying there are no saved people that are famous in our culture. But, it seems that they are few and far between. I am not saying that all of these celebrity “Christians” are not saved who use profanity in a casual manner. Many may indeed be saved and may only be in need of correction. But, that cannot be the case for most of them. Most of them act in the manner described above for years on end, showing that in all likelihood they do not have the Spirit. You can call that judgmental all you want, but it is

nothing more than biblical truth (Romans 8:9). The Bible is unequivocally clear that profanity is sinful. Please read or reread the final work in my basics series, where I show that this is the case beyond all doubt. That work can be found on my website. How dare we be so firm against homosexuality and yet let this sin off the hook. I am not saying that profanity is as sinful as homosexual acts. I don't believe that it is. But, that it is sinful is not in question. Thus, those who casually engage in this sin are living in sin, plain and simple. And if we cannot condemn living in sin in one area, we have no right to condemn it in another area. When we are inconsistent on this front, we come off as nothing more than the prejudiced people that the liberal world accuses us of being.

I am not saying that every person that has ever used a bad word in a Christian state is not actually saved. Christians often stumble in weak moments. I have struggled with this sin plenty. But, there is a qualitative difference between condemning a sin, working hard to overcome it with the help of the Spirit, and on occasion really blowing it in a weak moment, and in contrast giving Satan unbridled free reign in one's life in this area. Those are NOT the same thing. These professing "Christians" must repent. The church in general must repent for not being more clear about this. Let us do so immediately.