

Military Christian Fellowship of Australia

The Hard Questions Series

Topic Seven: Swearing is socially accepted as part of Defence lexicon, so it doesn't really matter if military Christians swear does it?

Week One:

Introduction

We hear it every day in every workplace in the ADF. Sometimes it is a just a constant stream, that we hardly even notice anymore. Four letter words are as part of the Aussie soldier's vocabulary as four letter acronyms. As long as you aren't directing them as people, it doesn't really matter does it? This study looks at the ADF's policy towards swearing, and compares it to how the Bible says Christians should behave with their words.

ADF Policy

- † What does the ADF policy say about swearing? Does it even have a policy about swearing? DI(G) 35-3.
- † Is the policy only really concerned if the swearing is directed in an inappropriate manner towards someone? What if someone just doesn't like general, no attributable swearing? Why is this different from using any form of language?
- † What is the difference between profanity, swearing and obscenity? Does the ADF make any distinction between these?

God's Policy on Profanity

- † Why have we been taught since childhood that swearing is against the laws of God? What does the famous, "Thou shalt not take the Lord's name in vain" actually mean? Ex 20: 7.
- † In Eph 5: 1 – 9 Paul warns of dire consequences for those who are immoral, impure, and idolaters. How does this relate to vs 4 in this passage? How should we be instead?
- † Is Col 3:7 and 8 clear enough in directing Christians not to swear? Why is this restriction in the same sentence as several acts that appear much more evil than just swearing?
- † Eph 4: 29. Why should we avoid unwholesome talk?

Week Two:

Practical experiences

- † Sometimes soldiers speak differently when a Padre/Christian is around? Why do some swear less and why more?
- † Some Christians, even Padres, say "I swear because it helps me relate better". Is this true or is it a false method of witness? See Col 3: 16 and 17.
- † Some military Christians have two vocabularies, one at work and one at home/church. Why is this? Why is it hard not to swear at work and how can you stop yourself?
- † Why do some people swear less when Padre's/

Conclusion

We can get desensitised to the use of profanities, obscenities, and swearing, just the same we can desensitised to may other sins around us; that doesn't make it right to do it. In the ADF it is a rare person that doesn't swear, so doesn't that make it all the more important if we want to be the salt and light in our world?