

# Not Befitting



**Sarcasm, dirty jokes, and the fires they start**

# The Tongue Is A Fire

- How we use our language is one of the most profound forms of expression. It can be powerful enough to motivate people to do horrible things to each other!
- People know you by your fruit (Matthew 7:16-20).
- Tragically, the victims of the recent terrorist attack in France discovered just how fiery words can be (James 3:2-12).

As a side note, it should be said that nothing can justify the violent acts committed against those killed or injured in Paris recently. The event does serve, however, to remind us what our words can do. “Sticks and stones...” is a fine idea, but it’s simply not true for most people. In this lesson, we will explore sarcasm and humor and the obligation that the Christian has to abstain from sin in all its forms - even when it makes us laugh.

# Ephesians 5:4

- “Nor filthiness” - Dirty, indecent, obscene language.
- “Foolish talking” - Impious, silly, godless speech that lacks wisdom and forethought.
- “Coarse jesting” - Immoral language disguised as witty or clever humor, suggestion.
- “But rather giving of thanks” - God always gives a positive alternative. Gratitude keeps us grounded and focused on our blessings. Especially notice 1 Peter 3:8-12.

**Does this mean I'm not  
allowed to make jokes?**





“These words do not preclude spontaneous Christian joy and a sense of humor, but they indicate that Christians are not to indulge in empty frivolity. In the Greek they connote the sort of jesting that is vulgar and unclean. The antidote for the Christian is thanksgiving”

***The Wycliffe Bible Commentary***



# Galatians 5:1 & 13



**“...Do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh...”**

**Also see Romans 14:13-15:7. What do you love more: your free speech or your obligation to serve others?**



# Matthew 12:36



**“And I say unto you, that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the Day of Judgment. For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned.”**