

OMG?

In our society the acronym OMG (Oh my God!) has become a commonplace exclamation. You see and hear it on Facebook, TV and radio all the time. Unfortunately you also hear Christians exclaiming it when they see a dress they love or are frustrated by their favorite sports team. God's name is supposed to be revered and respected.

Everything about God is special, from His plan for mankind to His name. The scribes who wrote the earliest versions of our Biblical texts actually had ritual cleansing ceremonies when they wrote the name of God in the text. And of course three of the ten commandments dealt with respecting God: You shall have no other gods before me, you shall not make for yourself a carved image (idol), you shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. (Exodus 20:1-21)

What do your words say about you? What do they say about the condition of your heart? If we throw around God's name (or Christ's name) in a trivial way, or as an exclamation, or with foul words, what must this say about our spiritual condition? Matthew 12:33-37 tells us that by our words we will be justified and by our words we will be condemned. Words have meaning and come from the overflow of what is in our heart. (v. 34)

What can we do to be a part of the solution?

- 1) if you say OMG, Oh My God, Oh My Gosh, or any other use of the Lord's name in vain, stop now and ask God's forgiveness for your sin.
- 2) Lovingly correct Christian brothers and sisters if you hear them say such things. Challenge them to think about how great our God is and how much their use of His name as a commonplace saying belittles God.
- 3) Consider the impact of your words on young children and those who are not believers. Will the use of OMG and other variants help or hinder the cause of Christ?
- 4) if you hear others using God's name in vain perhaps that is an open door for you to share the truth of God's message.

The OMG trend will come and go but God will remain. As believers let's make sure that our language reflects the honor and glory that we see in God.

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