

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Trash Talk

(Jerry Fite)

**T**he sports world is inundated with trash talk. The media loves the loquacious types who talk down the opposing team, thinking such talk will make their own team “better”. Its design is intimidation. The verbal insults are cast to put down the opponent making the opposition feel inferior. In reality, people who feel inferior, resort to trash talk. They are afraid that merely playing the game will not work out in their favor. At least they can be a distraction and get the other team focusing on the insults instead of the game plan.

Sadly, trash talk often includes filthy language. It is more than throwing out “yo mama so...” insults, but it resorts to spiking the sound waves with vulgarity. One can follow such talk on Twitter and watch such filth on You Tube. It lies in our increasingly coarsened culture, and often erupts in competitive sports.

Young people, especially young men in sports, are introduced to such talk as they mature. Recently, a pick-up basketball

game formed on my driveway. Seven boys ranging in grade levels of elementary school to junior high suddenly gathered to play. Assuming no one was home (they never knocked) they felt free to be themselves.

Three of the older boys constantly launched profanity to express themselves. Did they do it appear like tough guys? Did they want to stand out among their peers by shocking the younger ears with vulgarity? I do not know specifically why, but I did observe that none of the younger boys resorted to such shameful speech. The older boys were seeing who could jump the highest, while the younger boys stared with admiration.

With such admiration, how long will it be before the younger boys are talking like the older teenagers?

Vulgar talk is condemned in the New Testament. Christians, in putting off the old man, must put away “*shameful speaking out of your mouth*” (Colossians 3:8). There is unbecoming speech, and therefore, Christians are not to

engage in “*filthiness*” or “*foolish talking*. . .” (Ephesians 5:4).

“*Shameful*” speech is that which is “opposed to modesty or purity”.

“*Filthy*” speech is not only contrary to that which is pure; it is “disgraceful” and “obscene”.

“*Foolish*” talking is silly talk.

Instead of uplifting and inspiring speech, it is dull and sluggish. The garbage uttered by these young boys certainly fit the type of language condemned by our God. Oh how I wish they could see how “silly” they appear!

My fear is that the younger boys will soon be talking as their older peers. As younger boys seek acceptance among the older teenagers, they will be tempted to talk like they do. Wanting to fit in, expressing themselves in the same vulgarities will probably be their path. What a lesson for parents with young teenage boys! Paul warns all: “*Evil companionships corrupt good morals*” (1 Corinthians 15:33). How do the boys hanging around your boys talk? How do they talk when you are not around? Train your child to stand up against and avoid trash talk.