

Katy 1st Ward Spiritual Message #56

MORMON SWEAR WORDS

When I was in the military I had a friend I was trying to convert. One day we were talking about church and he said he could not see any difference between me and him in the way we live. I said that one thing that was different was that I did not swear. He said he heard me swear all the time. I told him to tell me the next time he heard me swear. It was just a few minutes later and I dropped something on the floor and said "DANG IT". He came rushing over and said, "See! You just swore". I was amazed as we talked about that word and others I told him I used, that he had never heard people use substitute words like "DANG IT", "SHOOT", "GOSH DANG IT", "SON OF A GUN". I realized they were "UTAH SWEAR WORDS".

For the next few months I started watching my own and my LDS friend's language. I was amazed how we had developed a "SUBSTITUTE WORD" for almost every swear word in the book. But more than that, I started noticing other things that I heard members say that made me realize LDS people had picked up MILITARY TALK expressions without knowing what they actually mean as a way to express themselves. I can assure you that if you actually knew what expressions like: "UP TIGHT", "HIT THE FAN", "UP A CREEK WITHOUT A PADDLE", "PUCKER FACTOR" or "LET IT ALL HANG OUT" actually meant, you would never use those expressions, especially not in a talk in church where former military people are present. I realized that some LDS military man came home and just took off the vulgar part of those expressions and just used shortened part of the expression. Then others heard him and his wife using those "MODIFIED" expressions and started using them as well. Lo and behold, now I hear those expressions and others like them used in talks in church all the time. But because I was in the military and heard people using the full version of the expression all the time, those shortened versions of the expressions still have the same meaning to me as the long version I heard people use in the military. Then of course there is the "F WORD" and the "S WORD". Can't say those words naughty words, but we can say the "SHORT VERSION" OK. Right?

However it is not just the old timers that are doing it. I see that same thing happening with our youth. For example, I often see kids posting on FB or in text messages the expression: "OMG". I asked one of them one day what they thought that meant. They said it meant "OH MY GOSH". Really? A modern day Mormon "SUBSTITUTE SWEAR WORD EXPRESSION".

Beware of what you say if you don't know what it means because there are others of us who know what it "REALLY MEANS" every time we hear it.

Brother Vail

[Back To Index Page](#)