

# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



## Keep Out Impurity, Live Out Holiness

A person's sense of humour is linked to their character, life experiences and values. Good humour, the kind that is cultured and thoughtful, can help ease tensions and bring people together. But humour without restraint can easily become flippant, inappropriate or even crude.

The Bible says, **“Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving” (Ephesians 5:4).** Hence, the interactions and behaviours of Christians should not be characterized by mocking, rage, foolishness or vanity, because we are God’s chosen people. As children of God, we are called to live holy lives, following His example in all things. So, our words, actions and thoughts should reflect our salvation by His grace, bearing witness to His transformative power in our lives. Anything that undermines or contradicts our new identity in Christ should be avoided, for it is inconsistent with the calling we received. After all, God did not call us to live in impurity to defile His name, but to live holy lives that honour Him. **“For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.” (1 Thessalonians 4:7).** We should therefore strive to distance ourselves from anything that is shameful, impure or unclean, and seek purity in our heart, mind and life.

Humour itself is not a bad thing, but we need to use it carefully and wisely so that it does not turn into foolish talk or vulgarity. Unfortunately, foul language and rude jokes are all too common in today’s culture, to the point that people have grown indifferent to

them. Christians living in a world surrounded by such undesirable influences cannot completely avoid them, but we must remain vigilant and intentional in guarding our hearts and minds. If we waste our lives on vain and harmful words, we are not living in a way that honours God. As God's children, we are set apart to live for His glory and hence we must stay away from anything that leads us to impurity. Our words and actions should always reflect the new life we have in Christ. Any behaviour that is careless or sinful not only distorts our witness, but can also hinder the spiritual blessings God desires for us. Let this be a reminder for us to be careful with what we say and do.

To resist the temptation of worldly talks and actions, we must not only be vigilant and disciplined. We must also remove any opportunities for impurity or foolishness to linger and take root in our lives. We must actively reject sexual sin, impurity and greed because the Bible says, **“For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God” (Ephesians 5:5).** Through faith and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we can break free from the bondage of falsehoods and impurity.

Let us therefore work together and support one another, to reject corrupt speech and conduct, that we may live out holiness to the glory of our God.

Pastor May Yee

*\*The above is a translated version of the original letter written by Pastor Chan May Yee in Chinese, which was posted in JACM's bulletin on 6 July 2025.*