

Say What?

Finally, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, and whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. (Philippians 4:8)

We just don't use words like course jesting, vile or vulgar nowadays. We don't use them because they sound puritanical and pious – old fashioned, irrelevant or judgemental. My concern is that with these words and others excluded from our vocabulary so too their meaning falls off our radar and the substance of those words can enter our lives without us registering their presence.

So let's look at some words out of common usage and how they are defined in the dictionary. Vulgar, this means a lack of good taste, course, crude, common, lacking in good manners or taste..... I'm thinking "The Simpsons" right now, the never ending series nightly that when you stop to listen and think, well let's just say there is a lot to be desired in terms of good taste.....

Here's another one - Course jesting – it means polished and witty speech as an instrument of (wait for it) of sin yes that's right Sin! Improper jokes. I'm thinking of some of our favourite comedians, so funny and yet we need to ask what is it that is getting under our radar and softening society on dodgy issues through the use of humour.

Here is another one, Vile – meaning loathsome, disgusting, despicable, unpleasant, objectionable, evil, wicked, or depraved. I'm thinking of the glut of forensic investigation shows on TV.

Have we become a nation of gladiator watchers? What I mean is, are we entertaining ourselves by focusing on murder and depravity? The lives and thoughts and actions of serial killers, paedophiles and the like are hardly thinking about what is praiseworthy. The worst possible behaviour in society is being watched for relaxation. This strikes me as very wrong. Let's just look at the scripture above as a reference point for that last statement. Think about things that are noble, pure, lovely, and right.....

I find these areas constantly come up and challenge the quality of the home environment. I sometimes find I start watching a series like Packed to the Rafters only to find by Season 2 it degenerates and has become disappointingly low class. Why is it that the story line degenerates just when you have found a program that you really enjoy? Because we get hooked and will let more under the radar when we have decided to watch the series than when we are first making that decision.

Subtle isn't it? And then once again we reassess what is getting under the radar and what is it that we are accepting or overlooking in our lounge rooms.

Lord God,

Sometimes in this busy life as we seek self care and joy amongst our responsibilities and burdens we can let things slip under the radar. Help us to make proper choices with our leisure time and so by doing stand against the culture slide around us. I pray that in doing this we will find even greater joy and colour in our lives and be shining reflections of all things good, noble, praiseworthy, pure and lovely In Jesus name we pray. Amen.