



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Pastor Terry's Thoughts of the Week

Holy Name

Think about it: when's the last time you hear God's name, outside of worship, used in a proper or holy manner? Not too often, I'm sure. I have some pet peeves about TV programming – I know I'm not the only one here with pet peeves. One is the recent manner in which “gutter language” has come into regular “family” program. We can't escape it. If we object, we are told that this is current, everyday language and we should get with it. Sorry. I don't need that.

But even before this street language became acceptable, the use of God's name as an exclamation was and is common. I don't think any one every complained about that. I didn't like it from day one.

Do you remember “old” TV? Granted the jokes and some of the stories we now consider kind of lame, but they were good. The comedy was good without references to sex and bathroom humor. We laughed and enjoyed the physical comedy as well as the spoken words. It seemed like a good idea to start rating the movies and programs available, but let me tell you, what is rated OK for children is seldom OK by my standards. Parents have come to the point, today, that they have to see a movie or show before they can make a decision as to whether their children can attend or not. And that's too bad.

I'm as old as Snow White. One of our family things to do when I was small was go to the movies every week. Often there were cartoons beforehand and then the movie. I don't recall ever being told I couldn't go to a particular show. I don't think that kind of screening of shows was necessary.

We are definitely in another world today. More and more families are teaching their children at home because of the societal situation they see and hear about in the school room. Very small children are using language which

was forbidden when I was a child. We are having to tell our children, very early, that certain language is not acceptable.

Now the big question is “Where did they pick that up?” OK, some of it’s from parents. But much of it is from TV and the people with whom they live and move and have their being. Tweeting has taken the place of conversation and 1 cn hrdly spl cuz u mke it sml. Needless to say, spelling is not high on the list of things we really know!

Can we change the world? All I know is that I can change the world I live in. That’s about the most I can do. There are a lot of things I can change in my life, and I keep working at them. Some I manage and some I don’t. But I keep working at it.

I’m often reminded of the AA first step – I have no power over (fill in your major problem). When something has power over you, it controls you. When you seek God’s help to eliminate that power, you are using God’s name in a holy way. Father? For some of us that’s not a good image. OK. Brother? Never had one but it kind of works. Friend? For sure. Companion? That strikes a good cord. Leader? Life giver? Best thing that ever happen to me? You’d better believe it.

God is holy. Let’s make sure we work in our lives to keep his name holy and live as his children with holy lives.

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Week of July 26, 2009