

"Why So Many Bleep Words?"

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"Why So Many Bleep Words?"

By Shellie Rushing Tomlinson

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My family watched a lot of movies over the holidays; at least we tried to. It's about impossible to find good clean entertainment anymore. We did have a TV Guardian to bleep the bad words, but the poor thing was overworked. It bleeped itself into early retirement the other night. Which got me to thinking—I'd love to see a breakdown on the birthplaces of movie producers and writers. There can't be more than a handful of true southerners in the bunch. Think about it.

It's like today's movies are required to have a certain number of expletives. I can almost see the big execs reviewing a movie and saying, "What the bleep? There wasn't but 73 bleeping bleep words in this whole bleeping movie! Somebody's bleeping head's gonna roll!"

So, what's this got to do with the writer's birthplace? Easy, southern writers would use more words like sugar and swanee and dadgummit! Plus, any well-brought up southern gentleman knows his mama will pop him in the forehead if he uses the Lord's name in vain—especially in front of a lady. It's infuriating, but I guess they weren't raised any better, bless their hearts...

Now, y'all have a great day and drop by my porch, (<http://www.allthingsouthern.com>), anytime you want to chat.

Shellie Rushing Tomlinson lives in Louisiana with her husband and teenagers. Her writing celebrates the charm and beauty of the South. You can find her memoir, "Lessons Learned on Bull Run Road", at <http://www.allthingsouthern.com>.

Counterfeit Love

By Joyce C. Lock

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Some form of the word `love' exists in scripture 543 times and is, conceivably, one of the most abused, excused, and misused words in modern lingo, today.

I love your style. I just loved that show. I love the way you fix your hair! I love ice cream. Oh, I love what you've done with this room! I love you in that dress. I love it when you make me laugh.

I LOVE YOU ... unless I get hurt ... just don't ask me to help ... only when my needs come first ... though, not if it means listening to you ... barring when I can take credit ... when it's convenient ... if you love me ... as long as you do what I say ... but not your children ... unless you get in my way ... until I think of some good jokes at your expense ... except you put on a few pounds ... omitting when friends are around ... whenever it benefits me.

Let's make love. If you love me, you'll do it. Never mind that I'm sleeping with someone else, it's you I love. You're just stupid. You know I love you.

I love you, but I won't forgive you. I'm sorry for hurting you, again, but you know I love you. I told you once that I love you. That ought to be enough. What do I have to say to make you believe me? I (bleep, bleep) love you, all right? If I say I love you, then I love you. I can see others and still love you. When you measure up to my expectations, then, I'll love you.

Some speak most eloquent words of love. Fewer show it in their lives. But, whatever they speak, actions speak even louder.

Surely, God must prefer to disassociate from situations wherein people misuse words that describe His character. And, wherever He isn't, it isn't love.

It is impossible to love until we (know God and) begin to love others as He loves us, because God is love and it's His Spirit that loves through us (1 John 4:8, 12b–13). Anything less is counterfeit.

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Joyce C. Lock is a published author, poet, and columnist. In addition, she founded and maintains the e-mail ministries "Heavenly Inspirations" <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HeavenlyInspirations/> and "Share a Smile" <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/smilesharing/>. Joyce's writings encourage us in our relationship with God and each other.

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