

Can Christians Cuss?

Feeling a little hypocritical today.

I have this amazing quote from a book that I want to share, but I'm feeling a little guilty.

I'm feeling hypocritical because of something I said and meant this weekend during my "Raising Teens" workshop.

I downloaded *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green, and was instantly turned off by the "G-d-" and other cursing, and the fact that one kid is groping his girlfriend's breast in public. I felt skeevy. Bleh. Stopped reading.

During my workshop, I shared popular movies with the parents and mentioned *The Fault in Our Stars*, since several of my middle-schoolers have read it and are dying for the movie to come out. I told the parents that I'd bought it but stopped reading it for the reasons mentioned—except I forgot to tell them about the groping.

Anyway, during my free time, I started reading another book. And this book also has some random cursing, and once in a while will say, "God" (minus the d-word after). And yet this book's version of cursing doesn't bother me the same way Green's book did.

But since I said, "I stopped reading because I don't like cursing in books," I feel guilty now for wanting to share a quote out of a book that does have some cursing.

Dilemma.

Come to think of it, there are certain shows that I feel convicted of watching because of their language but other shows that use less of the language I'm not disturbed by. So I find that I have a "line" when it comes to language, and I'm having trouble putting into words what that line is.

Is it the specific words used? I hate the *f*-word. I hate when people put the *d*-word after God's name.

Is it childish that I can't even write the cuss word out?

The Bible says not to let unwholesome talk come out of your mouth (Eph. 4:29). So why am I OK with a little bit?

I don't know. I just know when it feels wrong and my brain says it's all wrong, but I don't feel all wrong about all of it.

Here's the quote, though, that started this, said by a 17-year-old character in *The Fortune Quilt*:

"I'm also not going to be pressured out of my virginity by a culture so obsessed with sex that no one cares if it's any good or not."

Am I alone in this?

Bethany Jett is the author of *The Cinderella Rule*, a youth minister and a blogger.