

Prejudiced, Biased, Or Bigoted?

Words are constantly changing in meaning. You know this is true, even in your lifetime...say in the past few years. What once would have been considered light-hearted, happy and pleasing has now come to refer to sodomy, perversity, and a behavior that once was seen as disgusting. That would be the word "gay." When you hear one of the songs of the winter season "Deck The Halls" does not the word "gay" give us a strange picture when we "don we now our GAY apparel"?? What once referred to "extreme or patriotic adherence to a cause" has now become detrimental to and hateful of women (chauvinism). What once passed for a moral point of view has now become intolerant or some form of "phobia." Homophobia (fear of homosexuals), gynophobia (fear of women), such are those who suffer from misogyny (hatred of women). Just here I must confess that, well...as King David put it "I hate every false way" (Psalm 119.104). So, yes, I hate sodomy. Those who choose to practice it must repent or they will lose their souls. This I KNOW because the Bible teaches it. However, I do not hate women...why in fact...I even *married* one! Imagine that.

Many women, if not most, do not know their place and role in society, but that is due to the atmosphere I am describing in this article. In fact, most men do not know their place and role either. I am convinced (and I think I can prove) that the art of manliness and the art of femininity have for the most part been lost. There are a few "old fashioned" people left...but they are scarce as hen's teeth. (Psychologically speaking, the most well-adjusted folk in any society are religious folk...and of those, only a few are truly Christians and thus well-pleasing to God.)

Strange as it may seem, some people...in fact many in our society today are "logophobes" in that they have a fear (consequently hatred) of logic and common sense. Most of these also suffer from epistephorbia: they fear (thus hate) knowledge. Thus, to be brave enough to say "I KNOW THIS IS RIGHT OR WRONG" is atrocious to them. Why is this? I think it is because we live in a time where political correctness is king.

When such attitudes (which says "we must tolerate EVERYTHING"), are the norm sin will suddenly (actually, it has happened gradually) lose its repulsiveness, and may even

become attractive. Why? Because some do not want to appear to be closed or narrow-minded. They want to fit in and be acceptable; appear broad-minded, tolerant, loving, considerate and kind. When this is the view of sin, then those who oppose it will be the narrow, closed, hateful, bigoted, prejudiced people that society cannot take seriously, nor can their views be tolerated.

Take a good, fresh, close, honest look at how those who want to stand up for what is moral and correct are treated. Those who preach "tolerance" are usually the most intolerant of an opposing point of view. Especially is this true today in public morals, behavior, and politics. It used to be that way in "religion" but no more; rather, religion per se has been relegated to the quaint, and is not taken too seriously by anyone. Those who will use a good moral compass of religion to protest the actions of our society and our politicians are typically called ugly names, and dismissed out of hand with no consideration of their point of view.

Some words have meanings that do not change though their use has changed. Some of these are very good words, but the way they are sometimes used, causes us to stay as far away from them as possible. Our title sets before us three examples of this. I believe this "fear" of these words being applied to us is due to our linguistic and etymological ignorance, which is the result of poor education.

(Tell me if I am wrong: education in the last several decades has become more concerned with social tolerance (emotionalism), economic "equality" (socialism) and environmental activism than actual accumulation of facts (knowledge), and a proper application of those facts (wisdom) for problem solving, innovation, invention, and progress in science, math, and our country's general productive well-being. If you think I am wrong about this, please set me straight!)

Would you ever admit that you are either prejudiced, biased, or bigoted? Probably not. But two of these words are actually good words when used correctly, especially in a moral and Biblical context. Who would admit to being a bigot? Why, that would be INTOLERABLE! After all, bigots hate _____ people (you fill in the color). Now, that is how the word is USED, but that is not what it means. Those who have a hatred of races other than their own are not necessarily bigots...they are racists. By definition, a *bigot* is "somebody with strong opinions, especially on politics, or religion

who refuses to accept different views.” When it comes to morals and Biblical precepts, I am a bigot: I have VERY strong views and opinions, and do not accept alternate ones. I do not however, believe that I am a racist. (By the way: those who would say “Boy, he sure is opinionated” are hypocrites! After all, it is their OPINION that I am opinionated. Who does not have opinions on various matters? If my opinion agreed with theirs, they would likely say that I was well informed and knowledgeable. To say I am “opinionated” is like saying “Boy, he sure is a male.” Duh!)

Now, who will admit to being biased? Why, someone who is biased is UNFAIR! Perhaps they do not give the whole picture of a situation or a person. Yes, that is how the word is USED, but that is not necessarily its first MEANING. Again by definition, the basic meaning of one who is biased is one who is “having a preference for or a dislike of something.” So again, I have to say “guilty!” I have a strong preference for my brethren as opposed to worldly people (Romans 12.10). I have a strong dislike for worldliness. But I do not believe that I am unfair.

Now we come to the word prejudiced. Here we must be careful. Mostly this word is used in place of biased or racist or bigot. A prejudiced person is not simply one who has a preference, nor even a hatred of something or someone, but rather is one who has come to a conclusion (an opinion) without due consideration of all the facts. This in fact is sinful. It is the same as being presumptuous (Psalm 19.13). This is acting “unfairly, inconsiderately, disrespectfully because one has no knowledge of facts or is without qualification.” I do not want to be prejudiced, though to some I may appear to be. I do not want to be presumptuous. So do none of us, I trust.

So, why do I labor so over these words? I do not want to be swept away with the faulty thinking of this world, neither do I want my brethren to be. We must have strong, valid, Biblical opinions about sin. We dare not be tolerant of ungodliness...either in ourselves, the church, nor in the world. We dare not be seduced by the world into the current mind-set of tolerating everything but intolerance. This would be our undoing, and our souls would surely be in jeopardy. Think on these things. Be sure of WHAT you are saying when you say it. Meditate on Psalm 119.104.

RAGER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

5775 Rager Rd, Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110
Phone: 614-830-0110
Website: www.ragerroad.org



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

SUNDAY MORNING	BIBLE STUDY	9:30 A.M.
	WORSHIP	10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY EVENING	WORSHIP	6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	BIBLE STUDY	7:30 P.M.
Preachers:	Robin W. Haley	614-751-1082
	James Grayson	614-409-0941

January 3, 2010

Weekly Budget: \$1360.00

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Doesn't the year date on this bulletin look strange?? Or, is it just me ☺ ?

Item needed: paper towels

Wednesday's Wisdom:

“So-called ‘traditional’ worship IS contemporary; it is timeless and never needs updating!” Zach Haley

We hope that all had a nice holiday season, that you had opportunity to visit with friends and family, and if you were away, that you had a safe trip. Pray for those who may still be traveling. Josh and Melanie and children will be home sometime tomorrow.

Cheryl and I want to thank you again for allowing us to labor here among you, and to support us financially while we do so.