

Calling Evil Good, Good Evil, Darkness for Light, Bitter for Sweet, etc. (Isaiah 5:20)

2 Timothy 3:14-4:4

The use of terminology has become a powerful tool both for good and for evil. Society offers several examples. Abortion advocates prefer the label of "pro-choice" rather than "pro-abortion" or "pro-death." An "undocumented person" replaces an "illegal immigrant." The expression "alternative lifestyle" is chosen over a "sinful and unlawful lifestyle." Providing "gender care" for children is far preferred over "genital mutilation." Concerned parents who are vocal about the radical teachings their children receive in the classroom are considered "domestic terrorists."

The free speech rights of many have been canceled in the name of "disinformation," even though the so-called disinformation often turns out to be true and factual. Those concerned about climate dogma or evolutionary dogma are often labeled as "science deniers." "Social justice" sounds like a wonderful term until one discovers what it really means.

Accurate terminology is also vital in the spiritual realm. Instead of Christ dying as our Substitute, He died as our example. The Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of men sound wonderful although the concept is fully heretical (*1 John 3:10*). Sin has wrongly been labeled as a sickness or psychological disorder or even as normal, healthy behavior. Hell (conscious eternal punishment) is replaced by "conditional immortality" (annihilation). To limit Christ's Cross-work, we are told that He died for all men "without distinction" but did not die for all men "without exception." The "purpose-driven" label cloaks neo-evangelical practices and philosophies. The slogan "doctrine divides; love unites" suggests that it doesn't really matter what you believe.

Meditation and contemplative spirituality are mere fronts for demonic New Age concepts. Spirit baptism has mutated into a charismatic experience. Reformation replaces regeneration and turning over a new leaf replaces receiving a new life. True evangelism and Biblical missions are ousted by the "social gospel." **How we need to make sure our terminology matches Biblical terminology as defined by God Himself!**

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org



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