

Watch Your Language! I don't confuse your children's thinking

I. God created everything — including human communication.

- People speak because God speaks.
- God chose verbal and written communication to be the medium by which all people would come to know Him. This is significant. This raises language far above mere chance or human construction.
- Just like the rest of the Creation Mandate, God gave language to Adam and Eve to steward. And — for a time — the only language they knew was the perfectly communicated words of God.
- But one day Satan possessed a snake and — for the first time in human history — twisted language. He used it to do something it had not been created to do; he used it to question God. He used it to plant doubt. He used it to deceive.
 - For the first time language was reinvented. Words no longer meant what they used to mean. They became flexible and agile enough to casually throw off their created purpose.
 - Finally blame was cast, lies were spoken, angry words erupted, and lament was sounded.
 - Language was forever changed . . . and — I would argue — not for the better.
 - Those were the first offensive words. When the snake uttered, “Did God really say?” Eve should have screamed, “Watch your mouth!” But she didn't. She joined the snake in speaking the most offensive words God could ever hear.
 - And while God's people should be stewarding language in the same way God would have us steward the earth, we've been following the Serpent's example by twisting our words to suit our own purposes.
- This is how we've come to the place where masculine and feminine pronouns are being used to refer to people of the wrong sex. This is how we've come to the place where we've relegated deep, gorgeous concepts like “life,” “Truth,” and “love” to meaningless trivialities. This is how we've arrived in a time where even little children are encouraged to take God's name in vain. This is how we've lost the import of words like “sin,” “hell,” and “God.”

II. God deserves our best communication.

- We must understand the importance of submitting our words to God's understanding.
- We need to retrain our children or — if they're young enough — start training them to communicate the way God does.

III. Our children need for us to communicate as God desires.

- If we don't watch our language, we're going to confuse our kids' thinking.
- When we say things like “God told me to _____” are we actually suggesting that God verbally commanded us outside of the Scriptures to do something He hasn't commanded all of His people to do? If you didn't receive extra-biblical revelation from God that was unique to you, if you simply read a passage about fleeing sexual immorality, then why did you say, “God told me to stop looking at porn”? Why risk the miscommunication? Why risk leaving a new believer or an unbeliever with the faulty idea that God audibly speaks to His people?
- If children and parents would simply agree to let God have the final word, there would be no arguments. If husbands and wives would define their perceptions in biblical terms, they would quickly be able to determine which of them is wrong and which is right.

- We need to stop lying to ourselves by saying things like “I’m not going to let them hurt me anymore.” If by “I’m not going to let them hurt me anymore” you mean that you’re going to rest in God’s sovereignty and not allow others to steal your joy because you’re going to love them regardless of how they treat you and rejoice in persecution . . . then fine. That’s biblical.
- But if you mean that you’re going to leave your husband because you don’t like the way he talks to you, or you’re going to verbally attack people who verbally attack you, or you’re fed up with the people and situations God has brought into your life . . . who gave you the right to make such a proclamation?!
 - The almighty God of the universe submitted to the murderous hands of His creation because His Father willed it to be done, and here you are in all of your bravado claiming rights for yourself on which Jesus refused to lay hold. *“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but **emptied** Himself, taking the form of a **bond-servant**, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He **humbled** Himself by becoming **obedient** to the point of death, even death on a cross”* (Philippians 2:5-8).
- My friends, are we lying to our children?
 - Are we telling them that God just wants them to be happy because a preacher told us that the word “blessed” can be translated “happy”?
 - Are we telling them it’s okay to worry because it makes sense from a human perspective?
 - Are we telling them they can’t obey because they’re sick?
 - Are we telling our kids that discomfort and pain and persecution are bad things to be avoided at all costs?
 - Are we leading them to believe that God will heal their sickness if they just have enough faith or pray hard enough?
 - Are we giving our kids the impression that their feelings are prescriptive?
 - Have we convinced our children they “need” things the Bible says they *don’t* need because we don’t understand what a real biblical need is?
 - Have we done that in our marriages?
 - Do we men believe we need our wives to respect us?
 - Do you woman believe you need your husbands to love you?
 - What happens when everyone in your home has a different understanding of what it means to love?
 - Do your kids believe they have the right to tell you what to do because you allow them to use language that only authority figures should be using?
 - Do we allow sinful complaining?
 - Do we encourage unrighteous displays of anger because the newest psychiatrist says it’s healthy?
 - Do we allow our children to think that their half-hearted, disgruntled, partial compliance to our commands is what God means when He tells children to obey their parents?
- God’s Word has absolutely everything we need for life and Godliness (II Peter 1:3). We don’t need to accept the world’s redefinitions simply because everyone else is doing it.
- God created language. God gives words meaning. God gets to determine reality. God alone is allowed to decide what it means to love, what it means to sin, what it means to forgive, and what it means to speak.
- Let’s not offend our God and confuse our children by speaking words that don’t submit to the Scriptures.