15
REDEFINING LANGUAGE

Opening Questions:
- How well can people communicate if they have different understandings of the same words?
- If two or more people disagree with the meaning of words in their language, is it likely they will reach unity on matters to which those words pertain?
- If essential and valuable terms are redefined to something different, less essential, less valuable, or even false, then isn't something important lost?

So, we have made the proposition that reason and logic are being put aside and emotionalism is taking their place. Furthermore, we have taken a brief look at relativism and a few of the more popular beliefs based on relativism. Those beliefs have been shown to be erroneous using reason and logic as our tools to evaluate what is true versus what is false. There is a strong correlation between emotionalism (putting reason aside) and the rise and popularity of a relativistic worldview. Not believing that objective truth can be known will push people towards emotionalism. With standards gone and using reason on the wane, what sense is there in trying to make sense? That which will rule is, "I feel that is right" or "I feel that is wrong," and that marks the beginning of the end of unity for any group of people.

Additionally, we just saw how the term "respect" has been redefined or its previous commonly understood meaning has been shifted to mean something different, and that different meaning has serious negative consequences. That fact is a good lead into this chapter.

Another way to befuddle reason or to try and destroy truth is by redefining language. Language is critical in communicating and understanding concepts or each other. The importance of sharing a language is most evident when two people who don't speak the same language try and communicate. Usually, body language, facial gesturing, and pointing are used to communicate. Anyone who has tried to describe something more complicated to a person who does not speak the same language knows how difficult it is to communicate in a deep, precise, detailed manner.

What if a group of people believed that each person must decide what a particular noun means (that the meanings of the nouns in that culture's dictionary are incorrect)? In other words, they agreed on a basic vocabulary

regarding the word's existence, spelling, and pronunciation, but left the definition of the words up to the individual. How well could that group communicate? If a group of people turned away from a common standard for knowing the meaning of nouns, then would not confusion and chaos result? Imagine this grocery store scene, "Excuse me, sir, could you please tell me where the apples are?" the worker answers, "well, what do you mean by 'sir' and 'apples'?"

Language is not inflexibly permanent. In other words, language can change over time, and new words are added, and old terms let go. However, even though language is more pliable than stone, it still needs to be consistent for it to work as a means of clear communication. Nouns and verbs need to be stable in their meaning and not change based on an individual's whim or a culture's fad.

When terms are re-defined, then language loses its ability to communicate concepts clearly. A recent sub-cultural example of this was the use of the word "bad" to mean "good." That is about as confusing as it gets!

Many terms have multiple definitions, but the primary meaning is usually stable and consistent over time in any given language and culture/society. If you look at dictionaries for the English language published in the last one-hundred years, you can validate this truth.

A valid question is who is the Keeper of the Standard for what terms mean? Typically, this has been a collaborative endeavor by the people who publish dictionaries. No single person is appointed as "The Keeper of English Nouns" for example! However, and concerning English, some terms have older origins than others. When a new word is created, it is called "coining" a term. Many new words have been created over the past half a century particularly in areas of growing knowledge like technology and science. However, terms that describe basic human existence and relationships have not changed significantly over time. This is so *because human life and the ways people relate to one another have not changed over time.*

So, let's look at a few more important terms and their associated concepts—to define them properly versus how the popular culture defines them.

False Cultural Definitions of "Love":
- An emotional bonding or infatuation with a person whom you want in some way, usually to have for yourself often to fill insecurity needs, e.g. "I want you to be my girlfriend/boyfriend…"
- Romantic feelings towards another person; e.g. "I love you and want you to be my spouse/partner…"
- To like or have a strong affinity for something; e.g. "I love ice cream."
- Sexual expressions: e.g. "Let's make love."

The Proper Definition of Love:
- To value someone at least as much as one's self, and to behave selflessly towards them based on having compassion for them and thus help them in every good and right way possible and to want to share life with them as friends.

False Cultural Definition of Faith:
- A religion or a person's religion
- A pie-in-the-sky, highly unlikely hope

Proper Definition of Faith:
- A simple, core level existential trust or confidence in something or someone;
    - In the case of God-beliefs, the above definition has the additional component of trust or confidence in someone or something *you cannot see or validate with your senses.*

False Cultural Definition of the Church:
- The religious building that people go to for their religious "services."
- The programs, services, and staff of the religious organization.
- The people who participate in and support the religious organizations which take some Christian label – or who profess or identify with one of the many "christs" and sects of Christianity or the God of their parents.

Proper Definition of the Church:
- The collective followers of Jesus of Nazareth especially as *they live together and share his Life together in daily life in one location*; the called out ones who don't value or pursue many of the things the people of the society or nation they are in says are valuable or important.

False Cultural Definition of Community:
- People in close proximity; people living in the same housing development; people who live within a smaller geopolitical entity like a town or village.
- People who self-identify the same way even while they might not know each other or encounter one another or communicate with one another, e.g., the LGBT community.

Proper Definition of Community:
- Derived from the root term, "Commune";
- People living communally, meaning sharing their resources and participating in each other's daily lives to support one another, help

one another, and join in the work required to support those in the community;
- People holding shared, significant common beliefs (often political or religious views) that come together and are unified in sharing life together.

False Cultural Definition of Peace:
- Lack of outward conflict, e.g. "the middle east peace process."

Proper Definition of Peace:
- Internal lack of conflict or stress manifesting calm with no animosity or ill intentions towards other people.

False Cultural Definition of Marriage:
- The legal joining together of any two adults to gain material benefits or "rights" or privileges typically from a government as well as a legally-based acceptance or approval of that relationship from the society or their natural relatives.

Proper Definition of Marriage:
- The joining of a man and woman together as complementary life partners and a concept that provides a commitment to the having and raising of children and the best model to accomplish that vital responsibility.

False Cultural definition of Gender:
- A fluid, vague, non-specific, unstable, confused view of male-ness and female-ness no longer associated with the actual physiological anatomy of the person—determined by personal emotions instead of physiological aspects and character traits, and subject to change.

Proper Definition of Gender:
- Male-ness associated with males (those with male anatomy) and having masculine character traits, and female-ness associated with females (those with female anatomy) and having feminine character traits.

The above definitions are just a small sampling of the redefining of vital, significant and meaningful terms. As you can see, essential terms have already been redefined, and the critical, proper definitions and concepts of those terms have been mostly lost or destroyed, often by relativists who drive political correctness and desire to force others to their irrational worldview.

Another "great" way to hide wrong motives or to destroy simple truth is to use complex concepts or processes to do so. The next chapter will examine

that practice in the culture at large and then again in the religious sub-cultures in a later chapter.

Chapter Summary:
- Having a common language is critical and necessary for people to communicate ideas, concepts, and needs successfully. Having a standard and stable definition of nouns is crucial for having a stable and consistent common language which is critical for good communication and to have any hope for unity on critical human relationship matters;
- Words or terms are being redefined due to relativism and people moving away from a shared understanding of reality or a universal shared ethic;
- Through redefining terms, essential ideas are being destroyed or lost, and worst of all, the most important concept of all - love - has been more or less destroyed as we shall see.