

CULTURE WARS: THE BATTLE OVER LANGUAGE FOR OUR CHILDREN

CCLE XVI

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SLIDE 1: CULTURE WARS: THE BATTLE OVER LANGUAGE FOR OUR CHILDREN

- THE POST-MODERN WORLD VIEW
- CULTURE WARS: THE ASSUMPTIONS
- CULTURE WARS: THE GOALS
- CULTURE WARS: THE STRATEGIES
- CULTURE WARS: OUR CHALLENGES

SLIDE 2: POSTMODERNISM: A NEW UNDERSTANDING OF MEANING

- MOST WORLD VIEWS IDENTIFY MEANING IN LANGUAGE WITH REALITY.
- LANGUAGE IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE AN ADEQUATE VESSEL TO CONVEY OR PRESENT REALITY. IN POSTMODERNISM, THIS IS DENIED.
- MEANING IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE ONLY A CONSTRUCT OR CONVENTION OF USAGE WITHIN A CULTURE.
- WORDS MEAN SIMPLY WHAT WE CHOSE THEM TO MEAN.

SLIDE 3: POSTMODERNISM: WHAT IS A HUMAN BEING?

- THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE HUMAN BEING AND HUMAN EXISTENCE IS THEREFORE SHAPED BY PARADIGMS OF LANGUAGE USAGE.
- CULTURE SHAPES THE PARADIGMS OF LANGUAGE AND VICE VERSA.
- IT IS ASSUMED THAT THE HUMAN BEING IS A BIOLOGICAL BEING, A PRODUCT OF THE UNIVERSE.

SLIDE 4: POSTMODERNISM: WHAT IS THE BASIS OF MORALITY?

- VALUES AND MORALITY ARE ONLY HUMAN CONCERNS.
- MORAL NORMS ARE SHAPED WITHIN A CULTURE THROUGH ITS USE OF LANGUAGE.
- ALL MORALS, VALUES AND TABOOS ARE RELATIVE TO A GIVEN CULTURE. AS CULTURE IS DYNAMIC SO ALSO IS MORALITY.
- THE WORLD IS INTRINSICALLY DEVOID OF ANY ABSOLUTE MEANING, PURPOSE, OR VALUE.

SLIDE 5: POSTMODERNISM: ALL LANGUAGE EXPRESSES ONLY NARRATIVES

- NARRATIVES ARE STORIES THAT SIMPLY DEPICT A WAY OF LOOKING AT SELF, OTHERS AND WHAT IS IMPORTANT WITHIN A GIVEN CULTURE.
- EVERY CULTURE HAS ITS OWN NARRATIVES THAT ARE ONLY APPLICABLE WITHIN A GIVEN CULTURE.
- THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A META-NARRATIVE.
- CHRISTIANITY EXPRESSES A META-NARRATIVE . . . AND THAT IS ILLEGITIMATE TO POST-MODERNS.

SLIDE 6: CULTURE WARS: THE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT LANGUAGE

- LANGUAGE SHAPES CULTURE AND CULTURE SHAPES LANGUAGE.
- THE LANGUAGE THAT A PERSON USES IN EVERYDAY LIFE WILL SHAPE THE LANGUAGE HE PROCESSES MEANING IN HIS THOUGHT LIFE.
- TEACH CHILDREN HOW THEY SHOULD TALK, AND YOU WILL BE TEACHING THEM HOW THEY WILL THINK.

SLIDE 7: CULTURE WARS: THE GOALS

- TO REMOVE THE INFLUENCE OF THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW AND USE OF ITS LANGUAGE FROM OUR CULTURE.
- TO REPLACE THE LANGUAGE WE USE TO EXPRESS THE SIGNIFICANT THINGS WE BELIEVE AND DO THAT IDENTIFY AND BIND US TOGETHER WITH THE LANGUAGE OF NIHILISM, EXISTENTIALISM, AND POSTMODERNISM.

SLIDE 8: CULTURE WARS: THE GOALS

- MULTICULTURALISM* – THE GOAL IS TO PRODUCE AN UNDERSTANDING THAT ALL EXPRESSIONS OF MEANING, PURPOSE, AND VALUES ABOUT REALITY ARE ONLY RELATIVE TO A GIVEN CULTURE.
- THE MISSION IS TO REMOVE LANGUAGE THAT EXPRESSES OR PRESUMES CHRISTIAN ABSOLUTES.
 - THE PROCESS INVOLVES STRATEGIES THAT EMPLOY DECONSTRUCTION, MARGINALIZATION, AND IDENTIFICATION.

SLIDE 9: CULTURE WARS: THE STRATEGY

- DECONSTRUCTION* – TO ASSOCIATE LANGUAGE YOU WANT REMOVED FROM SOCIAL CONVENTION BY DESCRIBING AND ASSOCIATING IT WITH CATEGORIES, TERMS, AND VALUES THAT ARE CULTURALLY REPUGNANT OR HAVE VERY NEGATIVE CONNOTATIONS.
- EXAMPLES – RACIST, DISCRIMINATORY, BIGOTED, PHOBIC, HATE SPEECH, OFFENSIVE, NARROW, OUTDATED, UNSCIENTIFIC, ETC.

SLIDE 10: CULTURE WARS: THE STRATEGY

- MARGINALIZATION* – TO CATEGORIZE PEOPLE WHO SPEAK USING TERMS AND LANGUAGE THAT ARE BEING DECONSTRUCTED AS UNEDUCATED OR SOCIALLY/PSYCHOLOGICALLY MALADJUSTED, OR BOTH.
- EXAMPLES – BIGOTS, RACISTS, UNEDUCATED, UNINFORMED, NARROW-MINDED, HATERS, BIBLE THUMPERS, RELIGIOUS ZEALOTS, DENIERS, ETC.

SLIDE 11: CULTURE WARS: THE STRATEGY

- IDENTIFICATION* – TO CONVINC BY IDENTIFICATION: CLASSIFYING PEOPLE, POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY ACCORDING TO THE LANGUAGE THEY USE.
- MARGINALIZED PEOPLE MUST PAY A PRICE WHEN THEY MISSPEAK AND OFFEND.
 - ARGUMENTATION – IS LARGELY TO BE AVOIDED. THOSE WHO DISAGREE ARE NOT WORTHY OR CAPABLE OF BEING PERSUADED.

SLIDE 12: CULTURE WARS: OUR CHALLENGES

- CONTEMPORARY CULTURE IS INCREASINGLY MARGINALIZING CHRISTIANS WHO TALK AND THINK ACCORDING TO A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW.
- THE CHURCH MUST MOLD AND SHAPE HOW TO TALK AND THINK ACCORDING TO THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW . . . OR OUR SECULAR CULTURE WILL SHAPE HOW THE BAPTIZED WILL TALK AND THINK - ESPECIALLY OUR CHILDREN.

SLIDE 13: CULTURE WARS: OUR CHALLENGES

- HISTORICALLY THE CHURCH HAS TAUGHT THE LANGUAGE OF CONFESSION OF SIN, CONFESSION OF FAITH, PRAYER, AND WORSHIP.
- THE CHURCH MUST NOW CONSIDER THE TASK OF TEACHING AND NURTURING OUR CHILDREN IN THE LANGUAGE OF EVERYDAY SOCIAL DISCOURSE.
- OR . . . OUR SURROUNDING SECULAR CULTURE WILL.

SLIDE 14: CULTURE WARS: OUR CHALLENGES

- WE NEED TO RAISE UP YOUNG CHRISTIANS TO BE COUNTER-CULTURAL: USING LANGUAGE SHAPED BY THE ASSUMPTIONS AND VALUES OF THE CHRISTIAN WORLD VIEW.
- WE NEED TO TEACH OUR CHILDREN WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO TALK IT AS THEY WALK IT. . . . EVEN IN THE FACE OF THREATS OF REJECTION AND RECRIMINATION.

SLIDE 15: TEACHING ABOUT GIVING AND TAKING OFFENSE

- GIVING OFFENSE: TO ENCOURAGE ANOTHER TO VIOLATE THEIR CONSCIENCE OR ENTICE THEM TO STUMBLE. CHRISTIANS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY NOT TO GIVE OFFENSE.
- EXAMPLES: TO OFFER PORK TO AN ORTHODOX JEW OR MUSLIM (KNOWINGLY).
TO OFFER ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TO A RECOVERING ALCOHOLIC (KNOWINGLY)

SLIDE 16: TEACHING ABOUT GIVING AND TAKING OFFENSE

- WE MAY REGRET WHEN OTHERS TAKE OFFENSE BUT MUST NEVER APOLOGIZE.
- CHRISTIANS MAY HAVE TO SUFFER RECRIMINATION WHEN OTHERS TAKE OFFENSE.
- WE MUST TEACH OUR CHILDREN THAT SUFFERING SUCH REJECTION AND RECRIMINATION IS WORTH IT

RESOURCES FOR FURTHER READING

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