

THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

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Euphemisms

By Steve Higginbotham

I am afraid that unwittingly, we have been a party to lessening the impact of sin in the lives of other people. How so? Through the use of euphemisms! Our society seems to want to dress up nearly every undesirable concept with “soft and “friendly” words.

For instance, getting fired is called a “career change opportunity.” Students no longer fail in school, they “achieve a deficiency” (almost sounds like something to be proud of). Our under-appreciated garbage men are now called, “Sanitation Engineers.” Actually, I don’t mind euphemisms being used in certain contexts, but I do mind it when we use them in reference to sin.

When we lessen the impact of one’s sinful choice by referring to it euphemistically, we are contributing to the sinner’s escape from the reality of their sin. When we employ words that carry less guilt, we aid people in their attempt to escape facing what they don’t want to face, or that of which they are ashamed. Are we guilty of doing that? Really? Well, run through this checklist and see how you fair.

When referring to the following sins, do you say...

- “Fib,” “stretching the truth,” “white lie,” or do you call it a lie?
- “Affair,” “fling,” or do you call it adultery?

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- “Living together,” “in a relationship” or do you call it fornication?
- “Gay” or do you call it homosexual?
- “News,” or do you call it gossip?
- “Risqué,” or do you call it immodest?
- “Off color” or do you call it evil speaking or course jesting?
- “Colorful language” or do you call it cursing?
- “A little too much” or do you call it drunkenness?

This is just a quick sampling of how we lessen the force of sin through the use of euphemisms. Do you know of others frequently employed?

I know this will date me a little, but I remember watching the Phil Donahue show several years ago and he had on a guest who had been divorced 7 times. Donahue, trying to be funny, asked her, “So are you committing fornication with anyone right now?” She looked at him with a confused look and said, “Fornication? What’s fornication?” Donahue replied, “You know, like in the Bible.” Then with a look of recognition, she smiled and said, “Oh, I see what you’re saying now, but I don’t like to call it that.” Well I don’t suppose she did, and for that matter, neither does any sinner.

I’m just suggesting that we shouldn’t be a party to removing the guilt a sinner should feel for his sinful actions. We can still speak the truth in love without removing the guilt or shame a person should feel. It’s that guilt and shame that aids one in repenting. Friends, let’s do our best not to clutter up our nomenclature with post-consumer secondary materials...uh, I’m sorry. What I meant to say is let’s do our best not to clutter up our language with garbage.

The Challenge Is Before Us!

By Steve Niemeier

Our V B S is just a week away. Our challenge is to let as many parents and children know about this great event. Our August weekend meeting on “Bearing the Burdens of Life” is just a month

away. Flyers are in the foyer, your neighbors are just a step away, your subdivisions have many people who have paper boxes as well as they all have front doors. Our challenge for both of these events is to get the word out and invite people to come and listen to the word of God as it is taught in the way of truth and spirit that God has commanded. Many may be looking for these opportunities. We could be an answer to their search. That is our challenge—each one of us has our own talents—will we use them to meet this challenge?

THE WORK GOD HAS GIVEN US **TO DO**

Author Unknown

The Lord has given every man his work. It is his business to do it, and the Devil's business to hinder him, if he can. As sure as God has given you a work to do, Satan will try to hinder you. He may present other things more promising. He may allure you by worldly prospects; he may assault you with slander; torment you with false accusations; set you to work to defend your character; employ pious persons to lie about you. You may have Pilate and Herod, Annas and Caiaphas against you, and Judas standing ready to sell you for 30 pieces of silver.

But, keep about your work. Do not flinch because the lion roars; do not stop to stone the Devil's dog. Do your work. Let liars lie, let the Devil do his worst; but see to it that nothing hinders you from fulfilling the work God has given you.

He has not sent you to make money. He has not commanded you to get rich. He has never bidden you to defend your character. He has not set you to work to contradict falsehood which Satan and his servants start to peddle. If you do these things, you will do nothing else; you will be at work for yourself, and not for the Lord.

Keep about your work. Let your aim be steady as a star. Let the world brawl and bubble. You may be assaulted, wronged, insulted, slandered, wounded and neglected; you may be abused by foes, forsaken by friends and despised and rejected of men. But see to it with steadfast determination, with unfaltering zeal, that you pursue the great purpose of your life and object of your being, until at last you can say, "I have finished the work you gave me to do."