



# On The Frontier



“For The Glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

Vol IX No.6

June 22, 2001

## A Spoonful Of Sugar (The Name Game)

With the proper advertising campaign it's possible to sell the public just about anything. In like manner, ideas may be sold by the clever use of propaganda (perhaps a better word would be distortion). This concept is not new or unique.

God is first to use this concept and He does it with awesome, positive results. One such example is His Word's effective use of figures of speech to soften or impact a given truth.

I Thessalonians 4:13

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

The word sleep as used here is a euphemism. God uses a soft word to describe something unpleasant. When we go to sleep we eventually wake up. Thus, the word sleep embraces both the concept of sleep and wakefulness. This is a superb use of words by our wonderful Heavenly Father. This figure makes it so much easier for us to receive an otherwise hard saying.

We do grieve when we lose a loved one but not like those who know not the Hope of Christ's Return. Why? Because we know that when Christ returns the dead in Christ shall be raised from sleep. This is a marvelous use of euphemism. Furthermore, the word sleep very accurately describes the state of the "dead in Christ."

God's archenemy, the Devil, has an uncanny knack as pertains to falsification. The Adversary is in no way original but he is very good at duplication. He is a master counterfeiter! As such, he is responsible for an ongoing media phenomena. You do know the media molds society's conscience, don't you? Oh yes! If they say it's good, it's good and if they say it's bad, it's bad.

Ideas hold men captive, not prisons or weapons of war. The media not only molds the social conscience, it conceives it.

The word media has been bandied about quite a bit so we ought to be clear in our understanding as to what constitutes the "media." The most powerful aspects of the media are: television, radio, journalism and the Internet. However, we should not discount the "entertainment" industry as much indoctrination has been done by its "artists" and "entrepreneurs." Music, for instance, has long been a prevaricator of truth as well as a testimony to it. You see it works both ways, for good or evil. The difference is in the motive, accuracy and honesty. The counterfeit is always willing to sacrifice these things for personal gain. To be successful, however, it must look good. When talking of a counterfeit we are, after all, talking of a trap. In a trap the bait must be attractive and all must be seemingly innocuous. That's the measure of a good counterfeit, it looks good, very, very, good.

Years ago a famous company produced a movie for children which, though highly touted as "quality

family entertainment," was little more than a witchcraft promotional. I'm speaking of Mary Poppins. Ahh yes, a true "Classic." What ill can be said of an attractive, good natured young woman floating around with her umbrella as vehicle of choice? She was oh so . . . transcendental and her magical roof-top boy friend, wow! What a lovely pair they made. Witches are wondrous, aren't they? After all, there are white witches even as there is white magic. It's not all bad. Or is it? YES, OF COURSE IT IS. But, look at how the idea sold and (believe it or not) is still selling!

The following is not only illuminating and aggravating but also stunningly ironic:

*A Spoonful of Sugar  
(from Mary Poppins)*

*In ev'ry job that must be done  
There is an element of fun  
you find the fun and snap!  
The job's a game*

*And ev'ry task you undertake  
Becomes a piece of cake  
A lark! Aspree!  
It's very clear to me*

*That a...  
Spoonful of sugar helps the  
medicine go down  
The medicine go down-wown  
The medicine go down  
Just a spoonful of sugar helps  
the medicine go down  
In a most delightful way*

*A robin feathering his nest  
Has very little time to rest  
While gathering his*

***Bits of twine and twig***

***Though quite intent in his pursuit  
He has a merry tune to toot  
He knows a song  
Will move the job along***

***For a...***

***Spoonful of sugar helps the  
medicine go down  
The medicine go down-wown  
The medicine go down  
Just a spoonful of sugar helps  
the medicine go down  
In a most delightful way***

Isn't it amazing how a little sugar can make even the most bitter pill easy to swallow?

As a young man I had an interest in Olympic weight lifting and such. In the early years we had little in the way of sophisticated nutritive supplements. Consequently, we were forced to formulate our own. A main ingredient in the power/protein drink of the day was brewers yeast. Talk about bitter! But you could choke it down if you added enough molasses, malt, papaya and anything else sweet you could find. Yes, a spoonful of sugar makes it all possible. You wouldn't believe the horrible tasting things we swallowed. But not before we sweetened them, because a spoonful of sugar makes the medicine go down. No matter how horrible tasting the medicine is. The same can be said of ideas and concepts. The most bizarre and unnatural of ideologies are palatable when first sweetened.

When my daughter was very little she had a brief bout with hay fever. To help her with this we gave her an anti-histamine by the brand name of Benadryl. The idea of taking this was not at all to her liking even though the stuff had a "cherry" flavor. What was I to do? Change the name to "Cheery Medicine." That did the trick. In the

twinkling of an eye we went from, "I don't like Benadryl" to, "I love Cheery Medicine." What changed? Only the label. I ask you, would a rose by any other name be so sweet? Does my wheel barrow become a Harley Davidson just because I call it one? Of course not! Isn't it amazing then, how the right name makes everything alright! A spoonful of sugar and down the hatch she goes. A very powerful principle, one that's used effectively by most worldly agencies.

Earlier I mentioned the command of the media, so pervasive is this vehicle that even the "most trusted" of professions are clamoring to get on board. Why not? If you want to get your message out there's no better way than a clever use of media. Herein lies the rub, we face a phenomena of monstrous proportions. Think about it, we live in a world where wars are given television coverage and military stratagem is discussed in televised press conferences. The media is compelling and that's for sure, but a pig is still a pig even if you call it a dog. Likewise for sin.

Consider this:

**Exodus 20:13**

**Thou shalt not kill [murder].**

It's clear from God's Word that murder is sin. There is then no justification for it. Yet, the media is preoccupied with just that, a search to justify the unjustifiable. The only way to do that is with a spoon full of sugar. You bet! The old name game. Change the name, change the appeal. That person can't be held accountable for their action, they were insane. I know, murder is an act of insanity but not if you redefine insanity and/or murder. Unless of course, it's a hate crime. You see we must do away with sin because to have sin you must have a just God and you can't have that. No, no, not in a "modern" society.

It would certainly behoove us all to acknowledge that murder is precipitated by hate. Clearly you don't murder someone without first hating them, that's fundamental.

**I John 3:11-15**

For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

He who hates his brother is a murderer! Sure, because he would not murder his brother if he loved him and hate is the exact opposite of love. So then all murder is a hate crime. But when you play the "name game" murder isn't so bad if it isn't a hate crime and so much worse if it is. This is so effective when you serve special interests as you can garner immense amounts of sympathy and support.

The biggest of the special interest groups is the Devil's own agenda and a prime directive therein is to do away with sin. Easy to do with the proper advertisement, packaging is all important and what's a package without the proper label?

This phenomena of name changing has such far reaching effects that virtually all of society has been permeated. Because it is so immense I'll keep my examples to a minimum and let you exercise your own

perception. Nevertheless, here are some common ones.

#### Road Rage and Air Rage

These are treated as crimes and well they should be. However, they are prime examples of giving a fanciful name to a sinful act. Both of these terms deny the old sinful nature of man and lay part of the blame on the inanimate, namely the road and the air. When all is said and done only the "road ragers" will be held accountable by God and the innocency of both the road and the air will be manifest. You must admit though, these terms sound official enough to give a senses explanation to what is in truth a spiritual reality.

#### Von Munchausen by proxy syndrome

This amounts to nothing more than perverted child abuse. But if you give sin the right name it begins to sound medical rather than criminal. At any rate, the individuals who abuse their children as described by the above term have allowed devilish suggestions to become guidance. This is more than disgraceful and should be dealt with accordingly. Medical treatment should not take the place of the proper judicial process and appropriate punishment. In any case the wages of sin are death. Child abuse is sin. There is NO excuse for it and nothing justifies this type of behavior.

The above are of the most serious nature and thankfully not that commonplace, though popularity is gaining. The next example is more common and makes allowance for what can only be termed an "unrenewed mind."

#### PMS

This is sure to win me lots of friends among the ladies but truth is truth. We are all responsible for our thoughts, words and deeds. There is no time set aside in ANY month when

we are relieved of this obligation. For instance:

#### II Corinthians 10:5

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

#### Ephesians 4:17-32

This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

But ye have not so learned Christ;

If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

Neither give place to the devil.

Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

So regardless of the time of month, if you don't want to give place to the Devil or grieve the holy spirit of God, you must renew your mind.

Premenstrual Syndrome sounds very medical but truly does not relieve the sufferer from the obligation to renew her mind. Unless you join in on the name game, in which case ill fitting behavior is acceptable and justifiable. Why? Because we understand the medical reason for it.

As I understand it the medical profession has come up with yet more new acronyms to describe various phases of menstruation. Give me a break!

Regarding acronyms, there are oh so many of them used to describe various phases of the human condition. Most of them "sugar coat" the true problem. For instance:

#### ADD

Attention Deficit Disorder is a label generously applied to children these days. I would add that there are many cases where this label has been

applied without much in the way of examination. In any case, we have a medical name for a problematic situation experienced with our little ones. That is, they don't pay attention when you are endeavoring to instruct them. So what else is new? The answer to this is discipline not medicine. It is sinful for a child to ignore his/her parents, especially as pertains to obedience. Let's call it what it is and deal with it prudently and in accordance with God's Holy Word so that God is blessed and if He is we will be too. The command is:

Exodus 20:12

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Ephesians 6:1,2

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

Colossians 3:20

Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

The list is quite long dear reader but I'm confident that at this point you've got the idea. We need to call things as we see them. If I'm playing cards I'm required to "call a spade a spade." Should I call a spade a club or a diamond I would be in contradiction to Hoyle. In like manner, when it comes to life we don't want to find ourselves in contradiction to the Book of Life. Do we?

The world about us will continue to work hard at eliminating sin. But, you and I know this is not possible. Sin is sin and only the Savior from sin can deliver us. Therefore, it behooves us to recognize sin for what it is. We can have answers in life but only as we go to the Book of Life for them. Nothing

else is capable of providing satisfying, truthful solutions.

An all too common scenario: A mother kills her children and the world searches for answers.

They will never find them. No amount of clinical research will disclose sin. The professionals do not seek answers from the Word of God and in fact refute the same. Thus, they will remain in the dark. Those involved have no bearing on the truth, a situation such as this requires demonic involvement and is sin. No amount of observation and/or therapy will reveal this. For a situation like this to take place the mother would have to have entertained devil spirits and devilish suggestions. Furthermore, things of this nature are not the product of a moment in time. A mother doesn't kill her children because she all of a sudden "snapped." No! There was a process and I guarantee that it was NOT a godly one. Clinical perhaps, or social, maybe "family agencies" were even involved. But NOT a man of God, nor the Word of God. Had God and His Word been involved things would have been different. It is unnatural for a parent to kill their child. There's no medical justification for this or for any murder at anytime committed by anyone. The same can be said for all unnatural acts, that's why they're called unnatural. They are strange and perverse, because they are the product of sick men's minds and the devil spirits that inspire and inhabit them.

Proverbs 21:8

The way of man is froward [crooked, perverted] and strange [criminal, guilty]: but as for the pure [righteous], his work is right.

To better facilitate the strange perverted way of man the Devil sets himself up for worship. Here too God gives us dire warning.

Psalms 81:9

There shall no strange god be in thee; neither shalt thou worship any strange god.

A main characteristic of an idol is that the worshiper thereof seeks guidance from it.

Hebrews 13:9

Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

I John 5:21

Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

It's fascinating to me that God would refer to us as children in this verse. Children are easily misled and deceived which is why the guidance of a loving adult is so very necessary. In like manner we as God's children are very much in need of His guidance which has been given to us in great abundance in the written Word. We must get our guidance from God and His Word and no where else. The alternative is unacceptable as it either promotes or denies sin. This is easily avoided.

Psalms 119:11

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Hiding God's Word in our heart is how we avoid sinning. The world little recognizes this but truth is truth and sin is sin. You can change the names all you like, sin is still sin. No amount of Latin or Greek derivatives will ever change that. But, a spoonful of sugar . . . makes it so much more palatable. Remember what your mama told you, "DON'T TAKE CANDY FROM STRANGERS!"

**THE COUNSELOR'S CORNER****Spare The Rod And . . .**

Recently I watched the interview of a celebrated author. It seems this individual has earned his fame as a result of his books on parenting. Always a subject of interest to me, I listened with the hope of gaining insight. Sadly, I was quickly disappointed in his relating of a personal incident.

It seems his young son had procured for himself a stick, as boys are known to do. You know, the boy would rather play with the box the toy came in than with the toy itself. At any rate dad became concerned with his son's safety. Consequently, he asked the lad for the stick. The child refused boldly in spite of dad's repeated urging. As this situation wore on, dad became more and more concerned over his son's safety and also just a tad frustrated. His tender yet persistent urging turned to threats of retribution. Still the child scoffed at his father. Apparently this went on for quite some time as our luminary became weary enough to do what he called "the unforgivable." He actually smacked his tender young sapling on the hand. At which point he was overwhelmed at his lack of control in the performance of this terribly violent act.

The child was stunned, his father not knowing what else to do dropped to one knee and begged the child's forgiveness. Geeshh! If he had to ask the child's forgiveness on anything it should have been on his dereliction of duty as a parent. This lad should have been disciplined after his initial refusal to obey. Maybe our author should have asked forgiveness for his lack of expediency? Really, if he asked anyone for forgiveness it should have been God. That's right! He should have asked forgiveness of the

Almighty for not being obedient to His Word. Consider the following:

**Proverbs 29:15**

The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

**Proverbs 13:24**

He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

**Proverbs 19:18**

Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

**Proverbs 22:15**

Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

**Proverbs 23:13,14**

Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

Ask the child to forgive you because you disciplined him? PULEEZE!!! Oh well, to quote the fabled Forest Gump, "Stupid is as stupid does."

God is so very clear in His Word. Children are to obey and honor their parents. Period! It is up to the parent to see that the child is obedient, especially as obedience is a commandment of God. A child who disobeys his parents is a child who is disobeying God. The problem with our author is he values his emotion and experience much too highly. Not to mention his complete ignorance of the written Word of God. Yes, he should have dropped to his knees and asked for forgiveness. First from God for failing to know and apply His Word and perhaps even more importantly for writing and speaking such drivel. It's bad enough to

practice such foolish parenting but to spread this nonsense to others exacerbates matters greatly.

The Bible may not be popular these days but it's still the Truth!

\*\*\*\*\*

NOTES