

# THE WAR ON LANGUAGE

Isaiah 30:9-14

## INTRODUCTION

- “It could never happen here,” is the feeling of many Australians when they read accounts of tyrannical governments in former times, in other lands
- Yet those who have fled here for refuge from communist oppression warn us that is *already beginning* to happen here
- Students of history, of human nature, and most importantly, of the Scriptures, say, “It *will* happen here unless God in his mercy prevents it, and unless we do our part to resist it.”
- Those who refuse to learn from history are doomed to repeat it; and those few who *do* learn from history are doomed to watch others repeat it
- Totalitarianism is a form of government that permits no individual freedom and seeks to subordinate all aspects of individual life to the authority of the state
- Soft totalitarianism gradually gains control over a population, not through physical force, but through ostracising from society those whose thoughts and words are deemed unacceptable
- Eventually this soft version will lead to hard totalitarianism where dissidents are arrested, imprisoned, tortured and killed, as is happening in China

- In 2017, the former President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, Gillian Triggs, lamented, “*Sadly, you can say what you like around the kitchen table at home.*”
- “He who controls the language controls the masses.” (Saul Alinsky)
- To understand why this war on language is so critical, we must first consider the divine foundation of words, before examining how the enemy is attacking, and then how we must respond

## **I. GOD’S ORINATION OF VERBAL TRUTH**

### A. The word in the creation

1. All things were made by the word of God (Psalm 33:6)
2. The worlds were not only *created* by God, but *framed* (Greek: *katertisthai*) – arranged, ordered, perfected by him (Hebrews 11:3)
3. The universe and all that it contains is upheld by the word of his power (Hebrews 1:3), and governed by God’s law
4. This law establishes order in the creation, and particularly in the lives of mankind, who is made in God’s image
5. These divine creative laws are clearly seen by man, and the proper response is for us to glorify and thank God, and submit ourselves to him – yet man refuses (Romans 1:20-21)

### B. The word in the conscience

1. Man has a “law written in their hearts” (Romans 2:14-15)
2. This conscience gives man a sense of discernment of good and evil, bringing conviction regarding the morality or immorality of man’s conduct (John 8:7-9)
3. Our duty to this inner law is to humbly yield to God in order that our consciences might be sanctified by the blood of Christ (Hebrews 9:14)
4. Yet most people’s consciences are defiled (Titus 1:15), evil (Hebrews 10:22) and seared (1 Timothy 4:2)

#### C. The word in God’s moral law

1. The moral law has governed man from the beginning
2. It was given to Moses at Sinai, and is summarised in the Ten Commandments
3. This provides mankind with a fixed, immutable, absolute standard by which man must live
4. In the atheist world-view, there is no transcendent, divine law because there is no divine Lawgiver
5. The ungodly world’s attack on language is an attack on God’s sovereignty, the law he has given to man, and his prerogative to require man to obey

## **II. MAN’S OPERATION TO VITIATE THE TRUTH**

- A. In the Garden of Eden, Satan set the example which his children have followed ever since (Genesis 3)

1. His attack was not so much against man, but against God
  2. He cast doubt on the word of God (v.1)
  3. He contradicted the word of God (v.4)
  4. He attributed harm to the word of God (v.5)
- B. The ungodly seek to pervert and corrupt our language
1. “Linguistic engineering” is the resetting of language, replacing words and redefining terms, which then transforms the society
  2. Biblical terms defined by God must be replaced with new unscriptural terms
    - a. Mother becomes “gestational parent”
    - b. Father becomes “non-gestational parent”
    - c. Breastfeeding becomes “chestfeeding”
  3. Vague, euphemistic terms are used to hide the reality of their sinful crimes (cf. Isaiah 5:20)
    - a. “Reproductive health care” to describe the murder of unborn children
    - b. "Gender affirming medical treatments" to describe child abuse, mutilation and sterilisation of children
    - c. “Gays” to describe sodomites

4. They construct labels to shut down their opponents, and shut down all debate
  - a. Eg. “racist, fascist, homophobic, transphobe”
5. They use meaningless catchphrases that bypass the intellect to capture the emotions of people, such as “love is love” and “trans people exist”
6. They claim to have the truth, and moral superiority
  - a. The newspaper of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was called *Pravda* (truth)
  - b. They “believe the science”
  - c. “A lie told often enough becomes the truth” (Vladimir Lenin)

C. The ungodly seek to silence and eradicate Biblical language

1. Throughout history, Satan’s people have seared, screwed and amputated the tongues of believers in order to silence them (cf. Jeremiah 18:18)
2. Today they seek to “remove our tongues” by silencing us through cancel culture
3. To quote the Bible is now considered “hate speech”
4. Biblical terms such as hell, damnation, wicked, sodomite, fornicator, repent, etc, are seen as violent and hateful

5. Christian street preachers have been arrested in England for simply quoting the Bible
- D. Sadly, many “churches” and professing Christians are capitulating to the world and are changing their language to appease the world
1. Instead of using potentially offensive terms like “unbelievers” and “lost”, they replace them with “Pre-Christians”
  2. Bible versions have been created that remove offensive terms like “sodomites”
  3. When persecution increases against the saints, these false professors join with Satan in the persecution

### **III. OUR OBLIGATION TO VOICE THE TRUTH**

- A. The Bible guides us in the *manner* of our speech
1. In love (Ephesians 4:15)
  2. For edification (Ephesians 4:29)
  3. With grace (Colossians 4:6)
  4. With meekness and fear (1 Peter 3:15)
  5. With restraint (James 1:26)
  6. According to the nine-fold fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
- B. The Bible guides us in the *matter* of our speech

1. We are to speak the truth (Ephesians 4:15)
2. We are to speak the words of God – “It is written...” (Matthew 4:4)
3. “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God” (1 Peter 4:11)
4. *“Read anything [by John Bunyan], and you will see that it is almost like reading the Bible itself. Why, the man is a living Bible! Prick him anywhere; and you will find that his blood is Bibline, the very essence of the Bible flows from him”* (C H Spurgeon)
5. When men, and governments command us not to speak the truth of Scripture, we have a duty to defy them (Acts 4:18-20; 5:28-29)
6. Those who are persecuted for the gospel are promise the special enabling of the Spirit to speak the truth and answer the persecutors (Matthew 10:16-20; Acts 7)

## **CONCLUSION**

1. The war on language is a war against truth
2. “As Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth” (2 Timothy 3:8)
3. Satan’s kingdom is built on lies, and his people are attempting to force each of us to forsake the truth and live according to their lies
4. Positively, we must be promoters of truth and light

5. Those who walk in the Spirit feel constrained to speak the truth, even in the face of persecution (Jeremiah 20:9; 1 Corinthians 9:16-17)
6. Negatively, we must separate from all falsehood (Proverbs 30:8)
7. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, a Russian writer who suffered under communism, exhorted people to “Live not by lies”, that is, to refuse to endorse or participate in anything that distorts the truth and promotes lies
8. The Christian must be willing to suffer, to “take up his cross” for the sake of Jesus Christ and the truth
9. *Are there no foes for me to face?  
Must I not stem the flood?*
10. There is coming a day when God will cut out the tongues of the wicked (Psalm 12:3; Proverbs 10:31)