

Eakman: Overwhelming the Rational Mind; Sex-Ed False-Teacher's Two False Premises: Tolerance Is a Virtue & the Bible Teaches Tolerance; Mt 11:20-24

Overwhelming the Rational Mind. In the sixties and seventies, the American media preached, both directly and indirectly, against war and violence—in film, in print, and in person via anti-war activists. At the same time, it glorified war and violence by depicting ever-more-gross and graphic displays of bloodshed and human-to-human abuse in film and on television, until today one finds a nonstop diet of this kind of fare. Without realizing it—and that is the key—the individual is getting mixed messages, both convincing, “authoritative,” and persuasive. By hammering away, day after day, the mixed messages become a source of extreme discomfort. The perceptive adult is somewhat more able to sort it out than the child, but not always. (pp. 198-99)

For example, a father holds a newspaper, reviewing yet again the horrific slaying of 12-year-old Polly Klass in Petaluma, California, by an arrogant, unrepentant man on parole after numerous previous convictions. Meanwhile, in the father's lap is a magazine article decrying the rise of vigilante groups and ownership of guns for personal protection. In the other room the man's son is playing the popular video game, “Night Trap,” in which a scantily clad co-ed is suddenly attacked by a gang of thugs. The father's attention is interrupted by a commercial for the film “Natural Born Killers” which depicts bloody violence. These mixed messages about violence and self-protection become a source of stress and extreme discomfort: cognitive dissonance.

The son becomes bored and switches to “Suddenly Susan,” who has been happily shackled up with Adam, a fellow she knew for only a week, until she discovers him in bed with his ex-wife. Then Dad learns that the 1996 film, “It's Elementary” by Debra Chasnoff and Helen S. Cohen for the Women's Educational Media has been shown for a year to youngsters in his son's grade school to break down resistance to homosexuality. (p. 199)

How is this hapless dad to sort out these conflicting messages and images? Cognitive dissonance again. (p. 200)

The child in the classroom has it even worse than his Baby Boomer parents. He or she may be tricked into choosing between two simultaneous but differing, perceptions—especially those involving his own persona. The student may be manipulated into trying to honor two different loyalties at the same time (“Whenever you're scared or confused, just talk to your imaginary friend, “Pumsey” (A stress-reduction program used in many elementary schools). Without even realizing it, in this example the child begins to view God as imaginary, too, and eventually rejects all religious tenets as well. He or she internalizes the suggestion that parents, ministers, or rabbis are not appropriate confidantes.

His parents may become hurt, annoyed, anxious, and worried by the child's reluctance to share anything more substantive than what he thinks of dinner. The child doesn't understand why, as he is only doing what he thinks is expected. He doesn't understand the contradiction. Again, cognitive dissonance. (pp. 201-202)

Cognitive dissonance equates to unresolvable mental confusion. Basically, the targeted individual has to resolve a no-win dilemma, but the child doesn't know that. Extreme discomfort results. For example:

“Tolerance is a virtue. Your religion teaches tolerance, doesn't it? Only intolerant people decline to recognize that homosexuality (or “sexual freedom”) as a viable lifestyle. So just how religious are you?” (p. 202)

NOTE: This statement contains two false premises that challenge the child's conscience who wants to do the right thing by honoring biblical teachings.

False premise #1: “Tolerance is a virtue.” By its precise definition, this is not true:

The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, s.v.:

Tolerance: The capacity for or practice of allowing or respecting the nature, beliefs, or behavior of others.

Tolerate: To recognize and respect, as the rights, opinions, or practices of others, whether agreeing with them or not.

It is not a virtue to respect the nature, beliefs, and behavior of others. The Bible requires the believer to reject, not “respect,” the “nature, beliefs, or behavior” of others when they are in conflict with its absolute standards. When these standards are upheld by others, tolerance is unnecessary since there is no conflict.

The contention that we are to “recognize and respect,” the “rights, opinions, or practices” of others when they violate biblical standards is an invitation to cognitive dissonance and rejection of our own beliefs.

The believer must distinguish between the doer and the deed. This means he must differentiate between a person and his thoughts, behaviors, and practices. It is rarely our business what other people do. They have free will and may use it for good or evil.

Our attitude toward others should be “grace orientation” which recognizes the person’s freedom to choose. However, this does not imply that we are to recognize, respect, or approve of what they say and do. Therefore, you are to be grace oriented toward the individual but personally reject his opinions and beliefs they possess and the behaviors and practices they perform.

False premise #2: “Your religion teaches tolerance.” This is not true. The word “tolerance” is not found in the Bible under the definition implied. It is only used in a negative sense in Matthew 10:15, where the Lord sends his disciples out to the cities of Palestine to announce the kingdom, and in Matthew 11:22, 24 and Luke 10:12, 14 where he denounced those cities that rejected the disciples’ message.

In these passages the Lord says that at the Great White Throne Judgment He will be more tolerable toward evil cities such as Sodom, Tyre, and Sidon than those cities that rejected Him as Messiah.

The words “more tolerable” is the comparative adjective **ἀνεκτότερον, *anektoteron***: “bearable; capacity to endure pain or suffering.” The Lord is not tolerant of either category of cities because of their rejection of His Gospel.

Matthew 11:20 - Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of His miracles had been done, because they did not repent [μετανοέω, *metanoēō*: to change one’s mind about Christ following demonstrations of His Messiahship].

v. 21 - “Woe to you, Chorazin \kō-rā'-zin\! Woe to you, Bethsaida \beth-sā'-i-da\! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

v. 22 - “Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you.

v. 23 - “And you, Capernaum \ka-pur'-na-um\, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades [**Torments compartment**]; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day [**Had the Lord performed the same miracles in Sodom that He did in Capernaum, its homosexual population would have responded positively.**]

v. 24 - “Nevertheless I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment [**Great White Throne, Revelation 20:11-15**], than for you [**both cities’ citizens will face judgment but one worse than the other**].”

The Lord is not tolerant of the opinions held by the citizens of these cities. He is not tolerant of their beliefs. He does not have tolerance for their behaviors and practices. In fact, He was willing to go to the cross in their place *because* of His intolerance of their sins. For them personally, He had unconditional love.

The Bible instructs believers to reject error, be it opinion, belief, behavior, or practice. Paul gives an example with reference to those who preach a false gospel and believers who *are* tolerant of it in:

2 Corinthians 11:3 - I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived [ἐξηπατάω, *exēpataō*: to deceive, beguile,] Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

Just as Lucifer deceived Eve by distorting the Word of God, so also the teacher in our excerpt deceives his young student by alleging his two premises are biblical when, in fact, they are not. This is not to be tolerated!

2 Corinthians 11:4 - For if [εἰ, *ei*: Protasis of a 1st class condition: and it is true] one comes [a Judaizer] and preaches another Jesus [a legalistic pseudo Jesus] whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit [a changed disposition due to false teachings] which you have not received, or a different gospel [faith plus circumcision] which you have not accepted, then [apodosis] you bear this beautifully [present middle indicative of ἀνέχομαι, *anechomai*: to submit to readily, i.e., tolerance, recognition, and acceptance of a false gospel].

Paul hits the Corinthians with sarcasm. In essence the word *anechomai* could be paraphrased in English as “you bought their elixir hook, line, and sinker.”

Why? Because the Judaizers had proselytizers who were able to appeal to the Corinthians’ emotions. Their false message was eloquently presented and it capitalized on the Corinthians’ inability to doctrinally analyze its content. Those who reject truth are condemned to believe the lie. What results is inversion of thought and the inability to grasp reality.

When a population loses the thought – a grasp of reality based on clear understanding of the Bible’s immutable truths – then evil men will fill that void by selling merchandise that is designed to assuage the doubts, fears, and longings of benighted and confused people.

The best way to bring a population to such a sorry pass is to begin not with the present generation but with its children, a principle recognized by Glaucon in Plato’s *The Republic*, book 5:

Socrates: “Such is the tale [the “Noble Lie”]; is there any possibility of making our citizens believe in it?”

Glaucon: “Not in the present generation; there is no way of accomplishing this; but their sons may be made to believe in the tale, and their sons’ sons, and posterity after them.”

The Frankfurt School, Columbia University, the National Education Association, and the Department of Education have managed to fulfill Glaucon's prophecy in our generation. And they have accomplished it by distorting the Word of God, which they openly detest, using it as a weapon against innocent children through cognitive dissonance.