

Christ's Common Words and their Uncommon Significance.

Class 1 – “Are you awake or woke?”
Things Jesus NEVER said!



**STAY
WOKE**

**WAKE
UP!**

**STAY
WOKE**

Hyde Park & Southern Vales Special Weekend 2024

SURVEY SAYS! (42 responses)

1. What do you associate with the term “woke”?

a. Awareness of social justice issues. (14%)

b. A term related to political or cultural movements. (29%)

c. A concept that has become overly politicized. (24%)

d. A term that conflicts with or undermines biblical teachings. (19%)

e. A negative or divisive term. (2%)

f. I’m not sure what it means. (12%)

g. I prefer not to answer this question. (0%)

2. How do you view the LGBTQ2S+ movement?

a. I support it. (5%)

b. I acknowledge it, but have concerns about certain aspects. (19%)

c. I’m indifferent to it. (5%)

d. I have concerns about its influence within Christadelphian communities. (33%)

e. I oppose it. (36%)

f. I prefer not to answer this question. (2%)

What is 'woke'?

- woke, adjective: Originally: well-informed, up-to-date. Now chiefly: alert to racial or social discrimination and injustice; frequently in “stay woke”. (Oxford English Dictionary, June 2017)
- Woke is a political slang adjective derived from African-American Vernacular English (AAVE) originally meaning alertness to racial prejudice and discrimination.
- Beginning in the 2010s, it came to encompass a broader awareness of social inequalities such as racial injustice, sexism, and denial of LGBTQ2S+ rights. (Wikipedia)
- Canadian Professor Eric Kaufmann in his 2024 book *The Great Awakening* defined woke as "the making sacred of historically marginalized race, gender, and sex identity groups".
- It has evolved to describe a broader movement advocating for social justice, equality, and dismantling systemic discrimination.

A graphic consisting of two thick red horizontal bars, one above and one below the text. The text "STAY WOKE" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered between the bars.

**STAY
WOKE**

Humanism/Modernism (up to mid 20th C)



- We are the product of purposeless physical and biological processes.
- Rejects supernatural explanations for the natural world.
- Science only is used to understand reality and adjust beliefs.
- No ultimate purpose, but we can make our lives meaningful.
- Tolerance for diverse approaches is essential.
- Values independence, happiness, and supporting others.

<https://understandinghumanism.org.uk/what-is-humanism/humanism-five-core-features/>

- This resulted in the following:
- ✓ God is dismissed as non-existent or irrelevant
 - ✓ Faith in science and human reasoning alone
 - ✓ No absolute right or wrong
 - ✓ Morals determined by society
 - ✓ Human 'rights' elevated to highest goal

The only absolute truth is that there are no absolute truths.

Paul Karl Feyerabend

How did we get here???

Post-Modernism (mid to late 20th C to present)



- Claims that there is no absolute truth.
- Rejects the idea of a single, integrated narrative.
- Embraces a world characterized by multiple, incompatible, heterogeneous, and contradictory meanings.
- Certainty gives way to ambiguity and fragmentation.
- Seeks to dismantle universal truths and frameworks imposed by dominant ideologies.
- Multiple perspectives and local contexts matter more than a single, unified story.

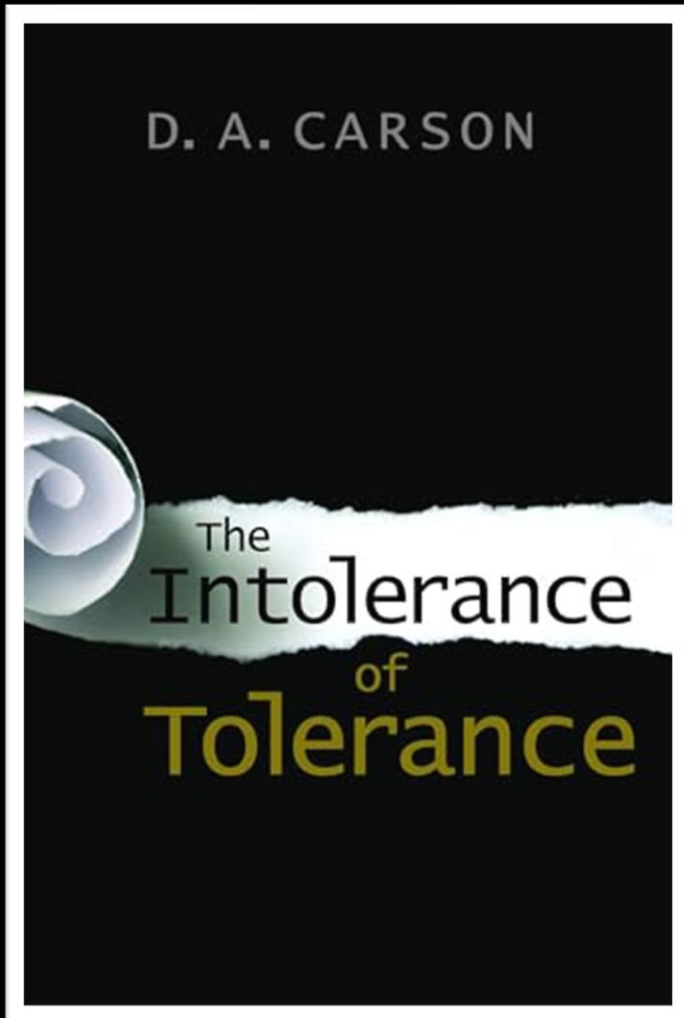
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/postmodernism-philosophy>

How did we get here???

This resulted in the following:

- ✓ Truth is relative and subjective – if it exists at all
- ✓ No ‘grand narrative’ of human progress, only stories of people & cultures – all equally valid
- ✓ People who speak of ‘one truth’ are the real danger to society
- ✓ Error is not the problem – intolerance is!
- ✓ Tolerance is the supreme virtue, and exclusivity the supreme vice.
- ✓ ‘My’ perception and ‘my’ truth is all that really matters

Tolerance?



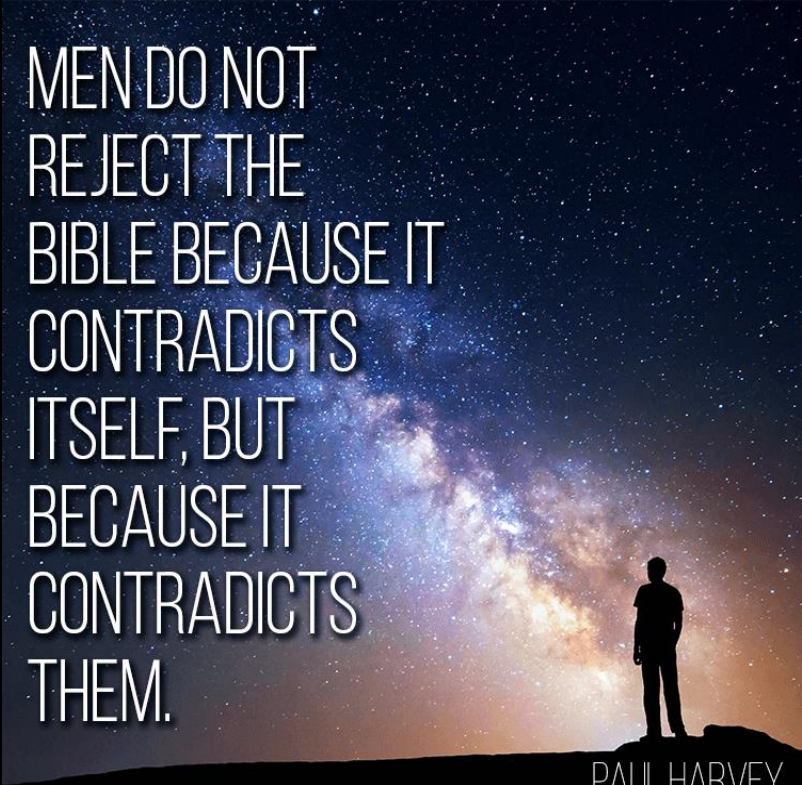
- “The new tolerance swamps penetrating discussion about truth and morality: tolerance is widely perceived to be more important and more enduring than either. The result is a greater tendency to believe lies and to come adrift in immorality” D. A. Carson
- “Ours then is a world in which ‘Thou shalt not judge’ has become the new eleventh commandment, and tolerance the last undisputed virtue.” Os Guinness

“Your [God’s] eyes are too pure to look on evil;
you cannot tolerate wrongdoing.” Habakkuk 1:13 (NIV)

In our day,
it is
considered
worse to judge
evil than
to do evil.

~Os Guinness

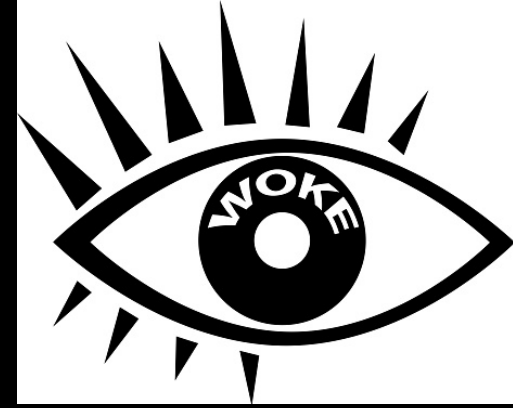
- Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!
- 21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!



MEN DO NOT
REJECT THE
BIBLE BECAUSE IT
CONTRADICTS
ITSELF, BUT
BECAUSE IT
CONTRADICTS
THEM.

PAUL HARVEY

Wokeism (A 21st Century phenomena!)



- Although Wokeism traces its roots to the Civil Rights Movement, it has gained significant momentum in recent years.
- Postmodernism laid the groundwork for many contemporary social and cultural movements, including wokeism.
- Concepts from postmodernism, such as deconstruction and language control, influenced the emergence of critical theories and ideologies associated with wokeism.
(https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-35463-2_11)
- “Wokeism is applied postmodernism.” (randombio.com/wokeism.html)
- The term “woke” signifies a commitment to social justice and dismantling oppressive structures. (<https://diversity.social/wokeism-woke-culture/>)

How did we get here???

Warnings from Scripture...



2 Timothy 3:1-5

- But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:
- For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, **despisers of good**, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but **denying** its power. And from such people turn away!

2 Timothy 4:3-4

- For the time will come when they will not endure **sound** doctrine, but according to their **own desires**, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;
- and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to **fables**.

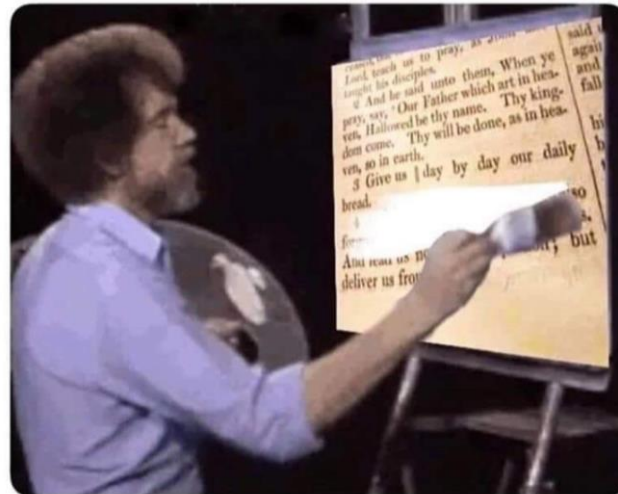
Revelation 16:13-14

- And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are **spirits of demons**, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Are you awake or woke?



How some people read the Bible



- The danger is that we might do the same with scripture!
- 2 Cor. 4:2 “We have renounced the hidden things of shame, **not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully**, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.”
- Pro. 30:5 “**Every** word of God is pure...”
- 2 Tim. 3:16 “**All** Scripture is given by inspiration of God...”

| Jesus NEVER said... | But he did say... |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| “There is no absolute truth.” | "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6) |
| “Do whatever feels good to you.” | “If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you!” (Matthew 5:29) |
| “Follow your heart” | “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.” (Matthew 15:19) |
| “Be the best version of yourself” | "Abide in Me, and I in you.... [you cannot bear good fruit] unless you abide in Me." (John 15:4) |
| “Believe in yourself” | “...everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him will have everlasting life...” (John 6:40) |
| “Live your truth” | "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed, and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.“ (John 8:31-32) |
| “Just live a good life and be happy” | "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" (Mark 8:36) |
| “Follow your dreams” | “You follow Me!” (John 21:22) |



DO WHAT
~~MAKES YOU HAPPY~~
GLORIFIES GOD.

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

Jesus said: “And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.”

to keep **awake**, literally or figuratively
→ be vigilant, wake, be watchful.



**STAY
AWAKE**

The power of words!

**HUMPTY DUMPTY: "WHEN I USE A WORD,
IT MEANS WHAT I CHOOSE IT TO MEAN
— NEITHER MORE NOR LESS."**



**ALICE: "THE QUESTION IS,
WHETHER YOU CAN MAKE WORDS
MEAN DIFFERENT THINGS."**

**Humpty Dumpty: "The
question is, which is to
be master — that's all."**

Linguistic Theft

Linguistic theft refers to the practice of purposefully hijacking words, changing their definitions, and then using those same words as tools of propaganda. It's a subtle but powerful tactic that can influence public perception and shape cultural narratives. Here are some examples of words that have been redefined or co-opted:



1. Gender: The definition of gender has evolved beyond biological sex.

➤ It now includes a spectrum of identities, challenging traditional binary notions.

2. Truth: The meaning of truth has shifted, especially in post-truth society & politics.

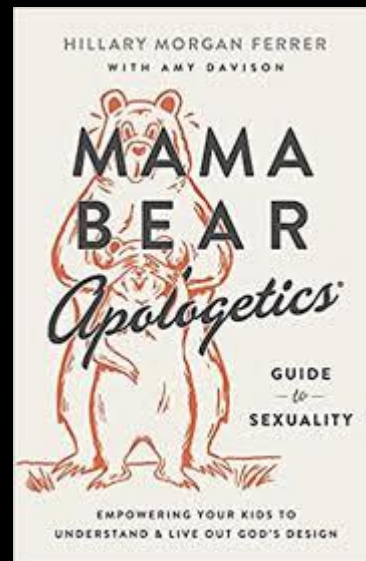
➤ Some redefine truth based on feelings, narratives, or personal beliefs.

3. Faith/Belief: Society assumes this means 'blind faith' and 'irrational belief'.

➤ It is considered illogical, 'wishy-washy' and lacking any real evidence.

➤ As the noted atheist Carl Sagan wrote: "I don't want to believe, I want to know!"

<https://mamabearapologetics.com/mba054-linguistic-theft/>



“Bullying” → Pink Shirt Day



“Stop Bullying” used to mean don’t allow students to physically or verbally abuse others – from teasing and name calling, to more sinister things.

“Stop Bullying” came to mean ‘If you don’t **support** my cause and my lifestyle choices, then YOU are the Bully!’”

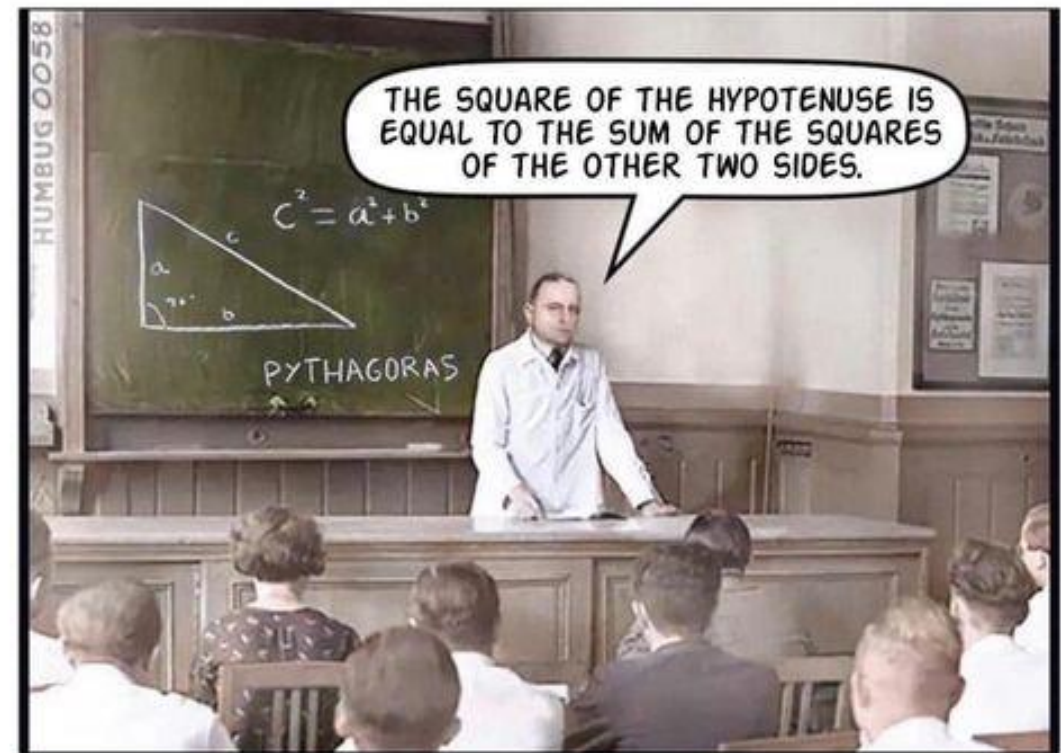


“Spirits of madness!”

“Mathematics has been used to normalize racism and marginalization of non-Eurocentric mathematical knowledges, and a decolonial, anti-racist approach to mathematics education makes visible its historical roots and social constructions,” a preamble to the new Ontario curriculum states. (July 2021)

The preamble was later changed and now reads: “The curriculum emphasizes the need to eliminate systemic barriers and to serve students belonging to groups that have been historically disadvantaged and underserved in mathematics education.”

The Government came under fire from some for making this change.



Don't be deceived!

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?

Do not be **deceived**.

Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

And such **were** some of you. But you were **washed**, but you were **sanctified**, but you were **justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Let us **draw near** with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our **hearts sprinkled** from an evil conscience and our bodies **washed** with pure water.

Let us **hold fast** the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

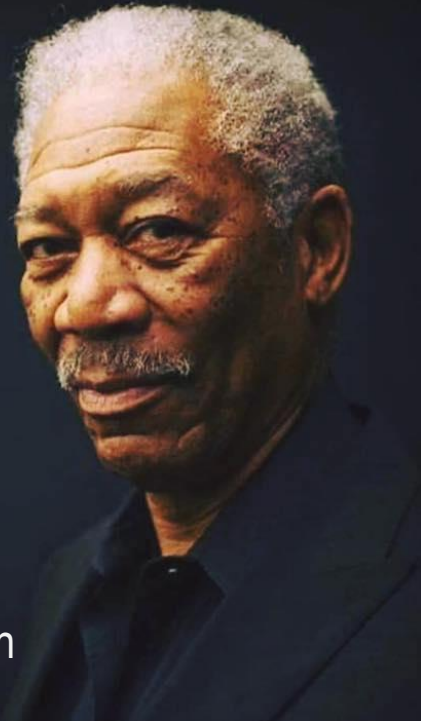
And let us consider one another in order **to stir up love and good works**, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but **exhorting** one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:22-25

Offensive?

Isaiah 29:21 Who make a man an offender by a word, And lay a snare for him who reproveth in the gate, And turn aside the just by empty words.

Just because I disagree with you, does not mean that I hate you. We need to relearn that in our society.



Morgan Freeman



Sorry Arthur. Your answer was correct but Paul shouted his opinion louder so he gets the point. And an extra bonus point goes to Sue, as she was offended by your answer.



NEW CURRENT AFFAIRS GAME SHOW

Take heed to yourselves.... Matthew 24:4-14

"Take heed that no one **deceives** you... And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation... All these are the beginning of sorrows...

"And then many will be **offended**, will betray one another, and will hate one another...

"And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will **grow cold**.

"But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be **preached** in all the world as a **witness** to all the nations, and then the end will come."



To blow upon, reduction of temperature by evaporation, to chill → a slow process that leads to lukewarmness! The Lord would rather we were cold or hot!!

No one dares to speak out (The Emperors New Clothes phenomena)



The time is now...

- Ephesians 5:6-11 Let no one deceive you with **empty words**, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.
- Therefore do not be partakers with them.
- For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk as children of light** (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), **finding out what is acceptable to the Lord**.
- And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather **expose them**. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

The BIBLE

The MORE you STUDY
it,
the LESS you can be
DECEIVED
by this world.

- YOUR ACTION PLAN:
- What have I been afraid to speak up against in the last year?
- How can I bring Biblical Truth to my friends and neighbours?
- When I get home I am going to: _____

