

The Consequences of Using Incorrect Terminology

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Ezekiel 34:10, 23

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Using incorrect terminology like “self-love”, “self-respect”, “self-image” or “self-esteem” in reference to a **non** “self-to-self” situation is a bad habit that has definite negative consequences. These phrases motivate people to become intensely selfish and get so obsessed with love of themselves that they become very unloving towards others. (See article listed below on: Self-Love and Self-Esteem.)

Some non-spiritual examples are how some people call cattle “cows”, but the “cow” is just the female. Or how some people call jets “planes” or “airplanes”. Planes have wings that go straight out to the sides whereas jets have wings that angle back and use turban jet engines which go much faster and higher than propeller planes. These examples are non-spiritual and the only time any danger is involved would be for people who are working in these fields as a profession. After all, if a rancher wanted to buy a milk cow, he wouldn't be happy if the salesman brought him a bull.

In modern times, it has become a regular habit to use anti-biblical labels for identifying the different kinds of church groups, which are called “denominations”. However, in the Bible these types of divisions are **not** approved of. [1Cor 1:12,13](#) **“Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. 13- Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye (y'all) baptized in the name of Paul?”** All of the leaders mentioned in this passage were good and honorably mentioned in the Bible. Even Christ is mentioned, but does that mean that people should make divisions in the body of Christ and put the name “Christ” on that division? (or “Church of Christ” or “Church of God”) or any of the other common names as a label on any of the divisions? No! The most common label in the New Testament is “Church of God”. The label “Church of Christ” is never even mentioned as a complete phrase in the NT, only with separate words out of order. The labels “Baptist” and “Presbyterian” are never used in the NT for the Church. However, the church should have a “presbytery”. ([1Tim 4:14](#)) And all churches should be “baptizers”, as John was. (The word “Baptists” would be better stated: “Baptizers”, John the Baptizer.) [Mat 28:19](#) **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”** But that doesn't

mean that we should use the label “Baptizers” in order to separate ourselves from the rest of the body of believers in Jesus Christ.

There is one large group that started in China, which has already spread to many other places, who have successfully avoided using any type of denominational label. Of course, due to habit, many people put some sort of a label on them anyway, otherwise how could anybody identify who they are? How could anybody even mention them in conversation without some sort of name? Well, those “labels” are bad habits. The church should be considered all one, as it will be when we get to heaven. The only form of “separation” mentioned in the New Testament was that of location. The name of the place where the church was located was commonly used in the NT. But that separation was only referring to physical location, not separatism as a denomination. The seven churches mentioned in chapters two and three of Revelation were called by the name of the cities in which they were located. This is the best way to say it, “The church that is in the city of _____”.

How about the word “judge”. Some people inappropriately use the word “judge” in many cases. They might say something like: “you’re not supposed to judge other people” or “you’re not supposed to judge me” or “you’re not my judge”. [Mat 7:1,2](#) “Judge not, that ye (y’all) be not judged. 2- For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure (amount) ye mete (assign), it shall be measured to you again.” However, they are misapplying the word “judge” as meaning “passing judgment” or treating someone else with a condemning judgmental attitude inappropriately.

Many people use this twisted analogy in order to permit themselves to continue doing any conduct they want and inappropriately prohibit anyone else from telling them otherwise, claiming that nobody else has any right “judging” them. The people in Sodom said the same thing to Lot when he asked them not to commit their sin. ([Gen 19:7](#)) [Gen 19:9](#) And they said, This one fellow came in to sojourn (stop over), and he will needs be a judge:”. This was followed by God raining fire down from heaven on the city, and destroying everyone, after Lot had left the city. Imagine, if they had listened to Lot, they wouldn’t have been judged and condemned by God; they would not have died. ([Gen 19:24](#))

The correct terminology that should be used here is “discernment”. [1Cor 2:14](#) “..... because they are spiritually discerned.” [1Cor 6:2,3](#) “Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? 3- Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?” The word “judge” should be understood in these cases as the word “discern”.

Discernment is not only permitted, but it is required. It is **commanded** by God to use “discernment”. Without “discernment” a person would fall into following spiritual error. Discernment is absolutely necessary in order to avoid falling into the same sin

and corruption that other people have fallen into. **Psa 1:1** “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.” How is it possible to avoid these types of people if you can't “judge” (discern) that they have truly fallen into error?

Sometimes, those people in error might think that the person offering the medication is somehow copping a bad attitude of arrogant superiority. They might respond by saying something like: “I'm just as good as you”, or “you're not perfect either, so worry about cleaning up your own back yard first”. If someone came into a hospital with a contagious lethal disease, would these responses seem appropriate when they were offered the medication? Why should they refuse the medication and say something like: “I'm just as good as you”? Is it not clear that the person with the disease is the one with the attitude of arrogant superiority? Regardless of which, if you want to avoid catching their disease you have to stay away from them.

Even in secular law, someone who maintains fellowship with a known criminal is considered an “accomplice” in the crimes. But how could you ever avoid a criminal if you thought that it is inappropriate to “judge” anyone. You would end up chumming around with the wrong type of friends..... and eventually becoming like them. Human beings are creatures of influence and habit; bad habits rub off.

Imagine visiting your brother's house and seeing a big pile of money on the floor. Then you ask him where he got all that money from, and he replies that he just robbed a bank. Would you ignore it and sit down and chat as though the pile of money wasn't there? Would you sit down and eat with him? If you did and the police came in, they wouldn't take just your brother away to prison, they would take you away to prison as well, you would be an accomplice to the crime by refusing to report it. However, if, when you saw the money, you sharply rebuked him and demanded fiercely that he returns it..... and then you refused to do anything else with him (no chatting, no eating), this may be just what he would need to get him to return the money and keep both him and you out of prison and then afterwards you could feel free to start chatting and eating with him again.

How about the word “proud”? Do you realize that this word is mentioned many times in the Bible. And, with no exceptions it is always mention with a negative application. In the Bible, “pride” is **always, always, always** something bad. But, in real life there are many people who use it in a positive way. **Pro 16:18** “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”

“Pride” and “humility” are opposites of each other. They cannot coexist together, either you have one or the other. You cannot have both at the same time. Every time “pride” is involved there is **always, always, always** some sort of a bad consequence that follows it..... every time.

Instead of using the word “pride” or “proud”, most of the time a different word could substitute it with a better meaning. For example, a parent could say to their

child, “I’m very happy you did well.” Test it out. Using this word “pride” or “proud” will always bring something bad shortly afterwards.

How about the word “compromise”, and how some people use it incorrectly in personal counseling, especially marriage counseling? First of all, what they are calling “compromise” is not “compromise” at all. A “compromise” involves two sides. The Merriam-Webster’s dictionary defines “compromise” as: “**settlement of differences by arbitration or by consent reached by mutual concessions.**” But, this word “compromise” they use in marriage counseling is one-sided. They are just asking the husband to step down as the leader of the marriage. It is a “surrender” not a “compromise”. The word “compromise” is used because when people hear that word, they automatically think that any person who won’t “compromise” is labeled as the bad-guy. This is modern psychology, which Christians ought to recognize as anti-Christian, and even satanic. **Tit 2:4-5** “That they may teach the young women to be,..... chaste, keepers at home, good, **obedient** to their own husbands, that the word of God be not **blasphemed.**” It is **blasphemy** when a husband “surrenders” his position as leader of a marriage. **Eph 5:23** “The husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. It is his body, and he is its Savior.”

So, among Christians who are aware of this teaching from the Bible, it is necessary to use some sort of deceptive word trick in order to convince someone to do the opposite of what the Bible teaches. The misapplication of the word “compromise” has a very strong influence on people. Nonetheless, this misapplication is an error. It is contrary to the correct teaching of the Bible.

The word “compromise” also has another meaning. It can refer to lowering a standard of quality to accomplish a desired achievement. For example, if a restaurant lowers the quality of food in order to lower their prices, to sell more food. A famous case of this was a pizza restaurant that started an advertisement which they called: “pizza, pizza”. If you buy one pizza, you automatically get two for the price of one. Well, I tried it only one time. I knew right away they had lowered their quality of the pizza. I never bought it again.

The word “compromise” is not used in the Bible. However, the word “lukewarm” is very similar to it. A “compromising” Christian is a “lukewarm” Christian. (See article listed below on: The Lukewarm Church.) Jesus Christ will **vomit (spue)** the Lukewarm Church. **Rev 3:16** “So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will **spue** thee out of my mouth.”

Yet, another similar word is “equality”, which is usually used incorrectly in modern psychology. For example, it is usually used in employment advertising by saying “equal opportunity employer”, which lets you know before you go that ALL of the important high paying jobs are occupied by women. How is that “equality”? It isn’t. But,

it's amazing how some people think it is. This is a good example of how mental illness gets started. Modern psychologists can't figure this one out. Why? Because this problem is related to modern "feminism", and it is now taboo to say anything against "feminism". (See article listed below on: The Consequences of "Women's Liberation".)

A good example of another similar spiritual bad habit is how people call a building the "church". The original meaning of the word "church" (ἐκκλησία) was "assembly" (of people). (Acts 19:32, 39, 41) This particular bad habit has extremely negative spiritual consequences. When a building made by human hands is somehow considered to be "sacred" or "holy", then the true dwelling place of the Spirit of God is mistaken. It's amazing that most of the churches (assemblies) that do this believe that the Roman Catholics are in error by making statues of supposed NT persons "sacred", yet at the same time they fail to see that when they inappropriately treat their building as a "sacred" church they are really committing the same error that the Catholics are making with their false statues. (The first generation church never made statues of any of those people, so it is impossible to know what any of them looked like. The first generation church also never built any church buildings. You might also notice that in different Catholic churches those statues look different. Sometimes the statue of Jesus has brown eyes, and sometimes it has blue eyes. Those statues never look like the same person.) If they did that to the statues of Caesar in the old Roman Empire, do you think that Caesar would have been happy with a bunch of statues that didn't look like him? NO.

The Holy Spirit lives inside of every true believer in Jesus Christ, not in a building made by human hands. 2Tim 1:14 "... the Holy Ghost (Spirit) which dwelleth in us." John 14:17 "Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

In addition, some independent churches even have internal fights over who has control of the building. In most cases, these battles involve the leading money contributors against the pastor. In particular, the Baptist churches in America have been having an epidemic of this problem. Some of them even do such things as throw their pastor out on the street, with his family..... firing him as though he was nothing more than an employee of their club, usually for no other reason than that they don't personally like him. (That's right, they've turned themselves into nothing more than an ugly **un-Christian** club. They're a Baptist "club", not a Baptist "church".) Supposedly, any accusations against the Pastor are supposed to be spiritual in nature. But in most cases, it is no more than a personal dislike of the man. (This problem runs rampant in other independent churches similar to the Baptists, too.)

You've heard of the Roman Catholic doctrine of the infallibility of the pope? Well, here's the doctrine of the infallibility of the Baptists. The Baptists are noted for thinking

that they are incapable of making spiritual errors. Those internal church fights end up being very ugly power struggles over control of the “church” building. It turns into something extremely selfish and **un-Christian**. All those fights start because the church is not supposed to be a building. This is incorrect terminology. That's what it turns into. They treat it more like a club than a “church” (ἐκκλησία=assembly) and the members who support the club with the most money end up being the bosses. The building provides the body of Christ, which is supposed to be a spiritual assembly, with a physical body that it shouldn't have. The word “church” (ἐκκλησία) means “assembly” of people. It does not mean “building” or “temple”.

King Solomon, who built the first temple in Jerusalem, said: **1Kings 8:27** “**But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?**” KJV When Stephen contended with the religious leaders in Jerusalem, he considered this incorrect understanding of the purpose of the “temple” to be major corruption. **Act 7:49-51** “**Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest? Hath not my hand made all these things? Ye stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit): as your fathers did, so do ye.**” KJV Stephen was killed by the people he was speaking to shortly after saying these words. Stephen considered this subject worth giving his life for. The words of Stephen apply equally to every modern church leader who insists on incorrectly misleading people as to the true dwelling place of the Spirit of God. (See article listed below on: Wolves in Sheep's Clothing.)

I repeat, one of the worst bad habits is using denominational names, which was never done in the New Testament. Even a few names that were used in the NT were not used the same way that people do in modern times. The most common name for the church used in the NT was “Church of God”. It is also common in the NT to use the name of the city where the church is located, such as the: “Church of Ephesus”. (The name “Catholic”, which comes from Latin means “universal”, is never used in the NT.)

However, even the names used in the NT, such as “Church of God”, were not intended to designate any divisions in the church, using that name as a separate church from any other church. When the name, the “Church of _____” was used, indicating the name of the city where they were located, it included all of the true believers in that city. It was always assumed that every believer was part of the same church.

In **1Cor. 1** this subject of divisions in the church is discussed. **1Cor 1:12,13** “**Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. 13- Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye (y'all) baptized in the name of Paul?**” All of these names are good and have legitimate value. But none of them are supposed to be used for the purpose of making divisions in the

church. Even the name “Church of God”, which is used the most frequently in the NT, is not supposed to be used for the purpose of making divisions (denominations). In the NT there was no such thing as denominations with different names. The closest thing to denominations in the NT was the previous verses mentioned (1Cor 1:12,13).

It is now, in modern times, that people are so accustomed to using these denominational names, that it has become almost impossible to even mention any church without first identifying which one it is by putting the recognized label name on it. Without labeling the church under discussion, a person cannot even know which church is being discussed. Disunity and different systems of beliefs are automatically assumed.

People are so accustomed to these names that it is very difficult to eradicate the use of these names. Many people have been raised from childhood with their particular denomination, and have very much grown accustomed to its teachings and practices. A few of those denominations even go so far as to teach that all other denominations are lost and on their way to hell. They really do believe that their denomination is the only correct path to God. But, most denominations don't go to this extreme. Each denomination has their particular habits and teachings; usually some good habits and some bad habits. They seem like horses with those little blinders next to their eyes; they can't see anything else except what is directly in front of them. It is interesting to observe how each one always thinks that they are the best way to God. And then, you can go down the street and find another church with very much different practices with a completely different set of strengths and weaknesses, who also think they are the best way to God.

One of the most famous cases in modern times of a group trying to overcome this modern bad habit is a church that started in China. They have done everything possible to avoid using any of the typical modern denominational names. However, other people still have to call them something. They also refuse to use traditional type church buildings; they always meet in the homes of the members, as was done in the book of Acts.

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