

CHEATED BY SLOGANS!

How Moral Relativism Destroyes Entire Socities

STEP

BY

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How They Use Slogans To Cheat People!

Slogans are striking statements that say much in very few words. Usually the choice of words, the way they rhyme with one another, and many other things make them so attractive and captivating that they immediately impress upon the minds and memories of people. This in turn gives slogans great power to influence people.

Slogans are as old as mankind itself, and the question Cain asked “Am I my brother’s keeper?” is a good example of a slogan that employs just a couple of words but says much more than the question’s grammatical meaning. It is communication by implication that gives slogans great power to captivate human minds. This captivating power can be harnessed for good as well as evil purposes, just as any other form of communication can be used either way.

Benevolent slogans often motivate people to do wonderful things, and the best example is the slogan “What would Jesus do in that situation?”, around which a very powerful

Christian novel titled “In Hs Steps” was written. (This novel is in the public domain, and should be available as a free download on the net). So powerful was this slogan that it still rings with a familiar sound, and continues to be with us as the abbreviation WWJD, even a century after the novel’s publication.

However, not all the uses of slogans have been benevolent. Not even the majority of the most powerful slogans has been benevolent. That is because the evil elements in society have greater insight into the power of slogans, than good and God-fearing people have, regarding the long-term results/consequences of planting carefully contrived slogans in the minds of people. This trend needs to be reversed through a process of analysis and exposure of slogans that are meant to destroy. A detailed analysis of a most damaging slogan can be seen in the work, “Not Everyone Is Doing It.”

Slogans And The Bible

Closely connected to slogans are “proverbs” or “wise sayings.” These are statements slightly longer than slogans, but using almost the same approach of coining statements that will captivate and influence the minds of people.

The most well-known example is an entire book in the Bible known as “Proverbs”. The book of proverbs has captivated generations of Christians as well as non-Christians.

There are numerous other proverbs scattered throughout the Bible. Many Biblical commands are stated in a form similar to proverbs. For example, “Love your enemy as yourself” and “Do unto others what you want them to do unto you”. Their effectiveness is known to all of us.

One of the commands in the Old Testament is very relevant in this context. God has commanded His people to write His commands everywhere so that they are always visible to people. He also commanded His children always to discuss these things orally in every place, and while doing all kinds of activities. The purpose was to impress the divine thought and outlook deeply upon the hearts of people. Since slogans belong to the same family of expression, Christians should strive to coin powerful slogans and use them regularly to captivate and direct human minds towards God.

Carefully composed poems, songs, and even brief essays and extremely brief stories (ten sentences or less) can also produce the same results. Thus they should also be used by

Christians to encourage wholesome thinking and wholesome behaviour.

Analysis of Some Popular Slogans

The spread of moral relativism has brought with it numerous slogans that either aid relativism, or that are a part of it. Often these are so catchy and at the same time so deceptive that people find it difficult to show precisely what is wrong with these slogans. We will introduce and analyse a few of these slogans here.

1. “**Everyone is doing it**”: this slogan is used to justify errant behaviour when questioned. The implication of the slogan is that it is not at all an abnormal or aberrant behaviour because everyone is doing it. This is a white lie, and it is analysed in great detail in our work “Everyone Is Not Doing It.”

2. “**I have Increased Acceptance Now**”: many Christians embrace social and moral/ ethical practices that are either forbidden in the Bible, or that are questionable in the light of the Bible. They claim that once they embraced these practices, their level of acceptance among non-

Christians has increased and that this will in turn help them to witness better for Christ.

The above includes a practice like social drinking. However, this slogan is based upon several fallacies. To begin with, the “acceptance” that one receives on adopting social drinking is not acceptance of one’s moral/ ethical standards. Nor is it the result of an increased appreciation of Christians and Christianity. On the contrary, what you get is social acceptance as another social-drunkard who is willing to be one with them in drinking. Nothing more is involved or implied. There are a number of reasons for this.

First of all, you must never forget that all religions and all moral movements condemn drunkenness. These are not Christians, nor do they have much in common with the Christian faith. Yet they perceive a certain thing as wrong, evil, and sinful. This being so, whatever argument or slogan one uses, it rings hollow. One cannot indulge in something that every world religion condemns, yet hope to win because one feels one has greater “acceptance.” People are not fools. When they show greater acceptance for a person whom they, deep in their hearts, perceive as doing moral evil, they will not accept the moral or spiritual good that

this person preaches. Deep in their hearts they will already have classified this man as morally evil.

Second, if one gets involved in an activity that is projected by the Bible as wrong or evil, then one is poisoning the well. On one side one wishes to offer people the water of eternal salvation, but on the other hand one is endorsing the poison of moral evil. Things do not work this way. This behaviour will only backfire.

3. “Let Us Not Offend/Repel People”: the statement is to be highly commended. Christians are commanded to love their neighbours as themselves. Christians have also been asked not to cause an offense even to the least one in society. Thus our talk and conduct should be carefully crafted so that they do not offend people. This is not exactly what the promoters of this slogan mean.

We need to understand the difference between the “context” and the “presentation” of the message. Truth always remains objective and unchangeable. The presentation, on the other hand, changes according to time, culture, and the current idiom. When Scripture commands God’s children not to give offense to anyone, the

command relates to the way in which the given message is presented.

For example, the gospel of Christ can be presented both as a message of God's wrath as well as a message of God's love. The presentation is different, but the message of salvation remains unchanged. People who promote the slogan "Let Us Not Offend Anyone" often do not understand this crucial difference. Therefore in their quest not to offend anyone, they jettison the message as well as the method. Worse, after they have continued like this for some time, they even become anti-message. Ultimately, these people work against the Christian faith because of their emotionalism and relativism that is devoid of reason and intelligence.

We do not need moral relativism so as not to offend anyone. On the contrary, what we need is wisdom and discernment so that the unchanging message is presented in the most sensitive manner, so that the presentation is not offensive.

4. "I Now Have A Lot of Money For The Lord": in these days of relativism, many Christians have started to accept bribes, undue favours, and

improper gifts. Many of them also evade the tax authorities. On being questioned, many of them offer the excuse that they accept these undue financial favors for the kingdom of God and not for their personal use.

The problem is that the end does not justify the means. When Saul said that instead of destroying them, he had brought home the best animals so as to offer the best of the best to the Lord, he was told that God looks at the heart and not at the gift. When Scripture says that the income of a prostitute is not to be gifted to the Lord, the same principle is in action: both the end as well as the means should be ethical and holy if it is to be acceptable to the Lord. The Lord who was pleased with the two mites of the widow does not need the fruits of unrighteousness as an offering to Him.

5. “The Lord Has Called Us To Love”: Those who use this slogan want Christians to remain silent on controversial issues so that those who have an outlook different from ours are not offended.

A call for love is surely a noble call, and must be endorsed by everyone. However, when the name of love is used to suppress truth, something is wrong.

Love at the cost of truth is not love at all, but only the door to anarchy. The correct approach ought to be “truth in love” or “truth with all love”. Love is not a substitute for truth, nor is truth a substitute for love. Thus one should not be used to negate the other.

Love without truth is anarchy and truth without love is harshness. They need each other for proper balance. However, those who avoid truth by hiding behind the slogan that we have been called to love do not have a balanced perspective. Thus in the long run they will end up rejecting truth (which is seen as oppressive and harsh) and embracing directionless love.

The Lord has called us not for love alone, but for love that is complementary to truth.

6. “Now I Have A Lot Of Time To Serve The Lord”: Many offices offer medical leave when people are sick. This is a special consideration of the concerned organisation to grant sick leave when their employees are genuinely ill, and do not have any other holidays when they fall ill. A medical certificate from a registered medical practitioner has to be produced to take advantage of such sick-leave. Many Christians routinely take all available medical leave

allotted every year, even if they are not ill, and claim that this gives them an amount of free time to volunteer for church-related and other spiritual activities. Thus they justify the obtaining of sick-leave even though it is a subtle lie to its very core.

Several things should be noted here. First, these Christians have numerous co-workers (mostly non-Christians) who know that he/she is not ill. Definitely they perceive this Christian as a liar and an opportunist who is willing to compromise his/her integrity to gain undue advantage. Second, this person will have to prevail upon a doctor to give him/her a false certificate that he/she is ill and needs bed rest. This is not only bribing a doctor to speak a lie, but another compromising of his/her integrity before a doctor, who may or may not be a Christian. Third, almost all his/her Christian companions know that the medical leave is taken on false grounds, and on producing a fake medical certificate obtained by dubious means. This, obviously, is not a simple error, unlike a rare slip of the tongue, that can be justified. On the contrary, this is a carefully contrived and deliberately orchestrated act of sin and trespass on the part of the Christian.

In essence, the slogan that it provides the

sinner with much additional time in Christian ministry is more like a moral sermon delivered by a harlot. It will only hurt the cause of Christ when Christians behave in this manner.

7. “Let Us Stick To Only Teaching What Is Right”: Whenever one has to teach what is right, it assumes that the opposite exists. People who are loyal to this banner claim that one should not speak against errors because that would offend people.

The argument is that truth should be taught and communicated without offending anyone because God has called us to love everyone. They also argue that since there are many “viewpoints” on any given subject, labelling a viewpoint as wrong will hurt people, and therefore there is no need to label wrong as wrong. They go further in their justification: once that which is true and original is placed before people, they will automatically recognise that which is false and erroneous. Things do not work that way in normal life.

If an ampoule of real medicine is shown to a person, he or she will not be able to recognise the fake. If an original currency note (bill) is

shown to a person, it does not empower the person to recognise a fake. The very fact that those who produce and peddle the fakes know that they are competing against the real makes them produce imitations so close to the original that they are indistinguishable. If the fakes were not so close to the original, they would not have survived.

Thus a person needs to know both the original and the imitation, plus their distinguishing characteristics so as to discern the difference. Likewise, spiritual and moral counterfeits are often presented in such words that even experienced thinkers might have to pause before they are able to understand what is what.

Those who advocate “The false need not be exposed, and only that which is true needs to be proclaimed” do not take this position due to ignorance. Rather, they take this stand because they do not wish to offend the peddlers of evil in the current tolerate-all and respect-all climate. This is a strategy of escapism which will result in damage only, and not in the conservation of values.

There is another important matter. Scripture

always condemns evil and describes it in detail with the aim of exposing it. The prophets were not afraid to declare truth and also to condemn that which is evil. The apostles in the New Testament period held the same attitude, and that same is what Scripture commends God's children to do. Trying to find a way around that is both cowardice and escapism.

8. **“This Choice Will Bring Great Healing And Reconciliation”**: every society and institution has more divisions than it needs. The Christian community too has its share of divisions. Many of these divisions are essential, while most are unnecessary and avoidable.

Every person who loves a given community would like to see the divisions giving way to unity and harmony. Thus whenever anyone talks of unity and harmony, everyone responds with great enthusiasm. However, in their enthusiasm, many people fail to see what this slogan really means. It is true that many choices, actions, decisions, etc. will result in great unity, peace, and harmony. But the most important question, “At what cost?” needs to be settled.

One should always distinguish between core

issues (or vital issues) and superficial (non-essential) issues. If a superficial or non-essential issue has caused division, pain, and hostilities, then it is highly desirable that the differences be solved. But if the division is because of core issues, then one should not compromise in any way.

History is our witness that those who use slogans to solve problems and foster harmony are often ignorant of the real issues involved. As a result they quickly become ready to compromise on core issues. For them it is not principle-based unity, but rather unity at any cost. In that eagerness many of them quickly jettison core truths.

Silence is one of the most common choices made by people to bring peace. When someone introduces a major doctrinal error or heresy, they remain silent lest matters be aggravated. When a major moral compromise is made, they remain silent lest their opinion leads to divisions. When a great injustice is perpetrated, they remain silent lest it leads to divisions. Eventually the evil elements come to dominate because they were not restrained early enough.

Summary

Building a great structure needs great vision, insight, planning, and careful execution. The largest human-made edifices are a testimony of this truth. Destruction or collapse needs only a slight weakness or carelessness. The best example is the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

The Leaning Tower is an unusually massive, tall, intricate, and strong tower. However, some fault or weakness in the foundation eventually gave way to the weight at one spot and the Tower started leaning to that side. Today it stands there, leaning to one side, totally different from the vertical tower that it was meant to be. Destruction and deviation are a thousand times easier than construction and firmness. And even more so in the spiritual and moral realm.

Thus, what society needs is perception and conservation, not demolition. Since demolition is much easier than construction, and since the inclination is more towards evil, people successfully use carefully contrived slogans to sway people away from truth and into error.

About The Authors



Dr. Saneesh Cherian is an evangelist-teacher-writer from Plymouth Brethren Background. He studied under some of the greatest Brethren teachers of this generation at the Brethren Bible Institute during his BTh years. He then went on to study for MDiv, ThD and PhD under scholars of repute.

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Most of his books are available for free download. They are in Creative Commons copyright, which means that you can distributed them in any form that you like. You can also translate them into any language, provided the name of the author remains there.

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Every reform movement comes to slumber in a century or less. There are practically no exceptions in the last two millennia of church history. Thus each generation needs Ezras and Nehemiahs to rebuild the foundations that were once laid down but which are in ruins now! The only solution is to go back to the Bible and its fundamentals.

The authors stand unashamedly and without wavering on the following fundamental principles: Bible Alone (Sola Scriptura), Faith Alone (Sola Fide), Grace Alone (Sola Gratia), Christ Alone (Solus Christus). With this in mind we bring to you a set of writers who stand strong on these principles.

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