

## **OBEY GOD-DEFY TYRANTS #4**

### **I. Introduction**

God's word to the church right now is the subject of our sermon series...  
Obey God; Defy Tyrants.

**Last week we looked at 'The Tyrannical Nature of Ungodly Government', a teaching taken from the story of the building of Babylon in Genesis 11.**

We showed how all the elements in the building of Babylon, the first tyrannical government, can be found in all tyrannical governments ever since, and are now emerging in America. Here's how you know tyrannical governments are rising:

#### **Characteristics of Tyrannical Government**

- **Offers people political salvation; a heaven on earth—but without God.**
- **Controls the people by requiring conformity.**
- **Controls the culture by controlling the language.**

#### **Theme**

**Tyrannical governments use the power of language to control people; it is a device as old as the demonically-inspired building of Babylon in Genesis 11. And it's being done again in our day.**

With that in mind, my title for tonight's teaching is a deeper dive into...

#### **"The Power of Language"**

Remember, it was God Himself recognized Nimrod's ability to build Babylon was based on language; God's judgment upon them was to confuse their language! Many Christians cannot comprehend how much culture is controlled by language.

John Locke, the famous English philosopher of the Enlightenment said...

#### **John Locke**

**"Language is the great bond that holds society together."**

Leslie Crocker Snyder, is an American lawyer who worked in the New York criminal justice system for over thirty-five years, both as a prosecutor and as a judge. She said this in her 1980 essay, “The Corruption of Language”:

**Leslie Snyder**

**Language is the common conduit whereby knowledge is conveyed from one man and one generation to another. It accomplishes this crucial task by enabling us to record our own thoughts and to communicate with others.**

**Leslie Snyder**

**Today we are witnessing a corruption of our language, effectively destroying the bond that holds society together. There are several reasons for this, but all of them have a common goal—as John Locke put it--“to darken truth and unsettle people’s rights”.**

**3 Points Tonight**

- **Look at the biblical basis for the power of language**
- **Show how tyrants control the culture by controlling the language**
- **Finally, Call Christians to the culture wars of language control:  
And Defy the Tyrants!**

**I. The Power of Language: Words Have Power!**

**A. The Biblical Basis for the Power of Language**

1. The God of the Bible is a *speaking* God! He created all things by speaking words!

a. 8 times in Genesis 1, we read, “And God said”, and it was done.

**Psalm 33:6**

**By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.**

2. One of the primary names of the Son of God is the Word of God...

### **John 1:1,14**

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...**

a. The writer of Hebrews tells us in the former days, God spoke to His people through the prophets, but...

### **Hebrews 1:1-3**

**In these last days God has spoken to us by His Son...through whom He made the worlds...who upholds all things by the word of His power...**

b. God not only created all things by the spoken word, He 'upholds all things by the word of His power.

3. Remember, God made man in His own image and likeness; He made mankind superior to the rest of His creatures by giving us the gift of language; something not given to the lesser creatures. What is 'language'?

### **Language**

**The principal method of human communication, consisting of words used in a structured and conventional way and conveyed by speaking or writing.**

**Language consists of words, to which meaning is attached.**

a. Leslie Snyder says we spend too little time thinking about it.

### **Leslie Snyder, "The Corruption of Language" 1980**

**To appreciate the crucial and indispensable task that language performs, one needs only to understand what language is and how it functions; that is, language is primarily a tool of cognition.**

### **Leslie Snyder, "The Corruption of Language" 1980**

**It provides us with a system of classifying and organizing knowledge. It enables us to acquire knowledge on an unlimited scale and to keep order in our minds, which means, enables us to think. The principal consequence of language is communication.**

4. But it's more than that...Jesus said that the words we speak communicate the condition of our heart.

**Luke 6:45**

**A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For *out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.***

5. The Bible testifies to the power of our words in the most powerful terms we can imagine.

**Proverbs 18:20**

**Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit. (NKJV)**

- **You will have to live with the consequences of everything you say. What you say can preserve life or destroy it; so you must accept the consequences of your words. (TEV)**
- **People will be rewarded for what they say; they will be rewarded by how they speak. (NCV)**

6. Language, speaking words, is an essential element of our salvation.

**Romans 10:9**

**if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.**

a. Be careful: Paul doesn't mean that just saying the words will save us; we are saved by faith; when the words from our mouth match the faith in our heart.

b. And Jesus warned us how much words will matter on the Day of Judgment:

**Matthew 12:36-37**

**But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. *For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.***

7. So that's point #1: the Bible constantly confirms the power of language; so how come Christians can't comprehend how the tyrants are taking our weapons and using them against us?

8. Christians are losing the culture wars by conceding the power of language into the hands of tyrants, who...

### **B. Second: Tyrants Control the Culture by Controlling the Language**

1. English novelist Angela Carter once commented on how culture is shaped by language:

**Angela Carter, English novelist**

**Language is power, life, and the instrument of culture; language is the instrument of domination or liberation.**

a. The power of language can take a culture toward domination or liberation.

2. I recommend the writings and website of Kay Rubacek, who survived a prison term in Communist China for participating in the protest in Tiananmen Square in 2001. She says this in her book, "Nowhere Left to Run":

**Kay Rubacek, "Nowhere Left to Run"**

**Deception and confusion are critical for tyrannists to be successful at manipulating minds. So they use proven psychological techniques and methods to manipulate words and their meaning. They cleverly and intentionally twist and turn the meanings of words. They rewrite accounts of history and redefine dictionary meanings.**

**Kay Rubacek, "Nowhere Left to Run"**

**They use the monopolized media mouthpieces to repeat the new definitions over and over again until you accept them and start to repeat them yourself. But it's confusing. The words you thought meant one thing, now don't mean what you thought they meant. Were you wrong before? Who changed the rules?**

I remember when 'gay' meant 'lighthearted and carefree'  
When marriage meant one man with one woman  
When parents were called Mom and Dad and equality meant equality

2. But the modern day American tyrants have hijacked the English language with “Wokeism” and a redefinition of words to the point where many don’t know what the words mean anymore. Basic words...like ‘Mother’.

**Washinton Times**

**The ‘Woke’ left’s hijacking of language deserves ridicule. On Mother’s Day, the woke left, always eager to pander to the transgender lobby—have taken to calling mothers by the gender-neutral term ‘birthing people’.**

**David Harsanyi, Epoch Times**

**Placating the mob has led to the rise in dangerous euphemisms like ‘gender-affirming care’, a phrase that means the exact opposite of what it claims. In today’s world, ‘gender-affirming therapy’ means telling a girl she can be transformed into a boy, but ‘conversion therapy’ means telling a girl she’s a girl.**

**David Harsanyi, Epoch Times**

**The corruption of reality has led to the rise of a pseudo-scientific cult that performs irreparable mutilation on children, with puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones and life-altering surgeries.**

Ever wonder what’s going on with PC? Wokeness? The redefinition of traditional words like man, woman, marriage, equality, and social justice.

**Kay Rubacek**

**The word “freedom” has also been perverted. It once meant to be free from political oppression. Now it means freedom from wants and needs—from hunger, unemployment, sickness, illiteracy, old-age worries, and the like. The**

**question to ask here is, at whose expense? Then it becomes obvious that these new freedoms are at someone's expense, and are not really freedoms, just irresponsible promises by government.**

3. We've gone from euphemisms to political correctness to wokeness.

Euphemisms/Political Correctness/Wokeness

**Nathaniel Hawthorne**

**Words—how potent for good and evil they become in the hands of those who know how to combine them.**

**Mark Twain**

**He who defines the terms controls the debate.**

**Anna Jameson, British writer**

**Accuracy of language is one of the bulwarks of truth.**

**George Orwell**

**Political language is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind.**

**Jonathan Cahn**

**In his novel '1984', George Orwell wrote of a government that used words to obscure and obliterate reality. The Ministry of Truth to obscure lies; the Ministry of Love to obscure oppression. Words matter. The truth matters. It is incomprehensible that this needs to be said, but this needs to be said.**

**Vladimir Lenin**

We can and must write in a language which sows among the masses hate, revulsion, and scorn toward those who disagree with us.

**George Orwell**

If thought can corrupt language, language can also corrupt thought.

**Kay Rubacek**

Tyranny strategists are intentionally changing language very publicly now. Even the word “woman” is now seemingly without definition. This is intentional. It has nothing to do with race or gender—that is part of the deception. It is all about causing confusion. This strategy has been used to perfection in communist China over the past 70-plus years.

**Proverbs 17:7 HCSB**

Excessive speech is not appropriate on a fool's lips; how much worse are lies for a ruler.

Eloquent words are not fitting for a fool; even less are lies fitting for a ruler. NLT

**Psalms 31:18**

Let the lying lips be put to silence, which speak insolent things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous.

**C. The Christian Response to Language Control: Defy the Tyrants!**

**Isaiah 54:17**

“No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me,” says the Lord.

**Kay Rubacek, “Nowhere to Run”**



Tyrannists know that language is extremely powerful and they use it to their advantage. Good citizens should also understand its power and we should also use it to our advantage.

**Kay Rubacek, "Nowhere to Run"**

Language defines a culture. If we allow our language to become perverted, the culture will follow. Language represents thoughts and actions. Use your language to represent your values, your thoughts and your actions.

**Proverbs 12:22**

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal truthfully are His delight.

**Kay Rubacek, "Nowhere to Run"**

Don't fall for confusion in language. Don't accept manipulated meanings. Don't be duped into thinking you aren't smart enough to understand the definition.

**1 Kings 18:21**

And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word

**Isaiah 36:20-21**

Who among all the gods of these lands have delivered their countries from my hand, that the Lord should deliver Jerusalem from my hand?" But they held their peace and answered him not a word...

**Misnaming Things**

**"Euphemism"**

The substitution of an agreeable or inoffensive expression for one that may offend or suggest something unpleasant

**Modern Euphemisms**

He 'Died is 'passed away'  
Fired is 'let go'  
Had sex is called 'making love'  
Committing adultery is called an 'affair'

A homosexual is 'gay'  
"Reproductive Care" means 'abortions'

The Affordable Care Act was not affordable  
The Inflation Reduction Act did not reduce inflation  
The Respect for Marriage act disrespected marriage

**Samuel Johnson's "Dictionary of the English Language", 1755**

**'Woman'**

The female of the human race.

**Cambridge Dictionary (until August, 2022)**

**Woman**

An adult female human being.

**Cambridge Dictionary (current edition)**

**Woman**

An adult who lives and identifies as female though they may have been said to have a different sex at birth.

**Harmeet Kaur, CNN, 12/15/22**

The Cambridge Dictionary recently updated its entries for "man" and "woman" to include transgender people –it is the latest dictionary to broaden its lexicon to reflect the evolving language around gender.

**David Daintree, Epoch Times, "Living a Leftist Dream"**

So-called gender fluidity is based on nothing in the visible world, human or animal. Have you noticed that when archeologists excavate bodies, they are always identifiable as male or female? There's no third or fourth option in the farm yard, on the archeological dig or in the chromosome count.

David Daintree, Epoch Times, "Living a Leftist Dream"  
Many on the hard left can be best understood if we recognize them as people for whom an imaginary world is more important than the world of facts and statistics.

**Babylon: The first tyrannical government**  
The story of Babylon is a lesson in the power of language

**'Babble'**

- To speak in a meaningless confusion of words or sounds.
- To speak in a way others cannot understand.

**Antonio de Nebrija, Bishop of Avila, 1492**

"Language is the perfect instrument of empire."

**WORD**

Word is the outcome of God's essence (Heb 4:12-13; 1 Peter 1:25; Gen 1:3); by the Word He made the universe (Ps 33:6)  
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**WORD**

In the OT the main term for "word," Heb.  
d<sup>1</sup>»<sup>1</sup>r  
, means an articulate and intelligible utterance.  
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**WORD**

The NT generally uses Gk. logos, which means essentially the same as  
d<sup>1</sup>»<sup>1</sup>r  
in the OT. The term normally implies a dialogue between the sender and receiver of the word.  
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## Word

In classical Greek

logos

meant "the word or outward form by which the inward thought is expressed and made known," or "the inward thought or reason itself.

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## Word

It also referred to the power of the mind which is manifested in speech

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## Texts

### Matthew 12:34-35

Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.

### Proverbs 13:3

He who guards his mouth preserves his life, but he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.

### Job 15:6

Your own mouth condemns you, and not I; Yes, your own lips testify against you.

### Isaiah 3:8

For Jerusalem stumbled, and Judah is fallen, because their tongue and their doings are against the Lord, to provoke the eyes of His glory.

**Luke 19:22**

**And he said to him, 'Out of your own mouth I will judge you, you wicked servant.**

**Psalm 120:2**

**Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips and from a deceitful tongue.**

**James 3:2 HCSB**

**For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a mature man who is also able to control his whole body.**

## **QUOTES**

**John Locke**

**Language is corrupted when words are abused, by either applying old words to new and unusual significations, introducing new and ambiguous terms without defining either, or else putting words together to confound their ordinary meaning.**

**Eric Metaxas**

**Wokeism is satanic-a project to try to kill God-to destroy God-to build a Tower of Babel to climb into the heavens of our own accord without His help so when we get up there we can murder Him and we can be god.**

**Eric Metaxas**

**That's what Satan promised in the Garden and you can see it all through history. But we've never seen it as clearly as we now see it. We see the vile and evilness of it on display. It is at war with everything that is good, and beautiful, and true.**

**Wokeism**

**The promotion of liberal progressive ideology, policy, and language as an expression of sensitivity to perceived systemic injustices and prejudices.**

Woke

Alert to racial prejudice and discrimination.

**“How The Specter of Communism is Ruling Our World”, Epoch Times**

**As society becomes increasingly atomized, a single misstep can trigger a struggle —the seeds of hatred already have been planted in the hearts of the masses.**

**This is precisely the sinister aim of communism.**

**Archbishop Charles J. Chaput**

**Evil preaches tolerance until it is dominant. Then it tries to silence the good.**

**Abraham Kuyper, “Sphere Sovereignty”**

**Right here is the sore spot. In any successful attack on freedom the state can only be an accomplice. The *chief* culprit is the citizen who forgets his duty, wastes away his strength in the sleep of sin and sensual pleasure, and so loses the power of his own initiative.**