

MAMA BEAR  R

Apologetics



The Discerning Mama Bear

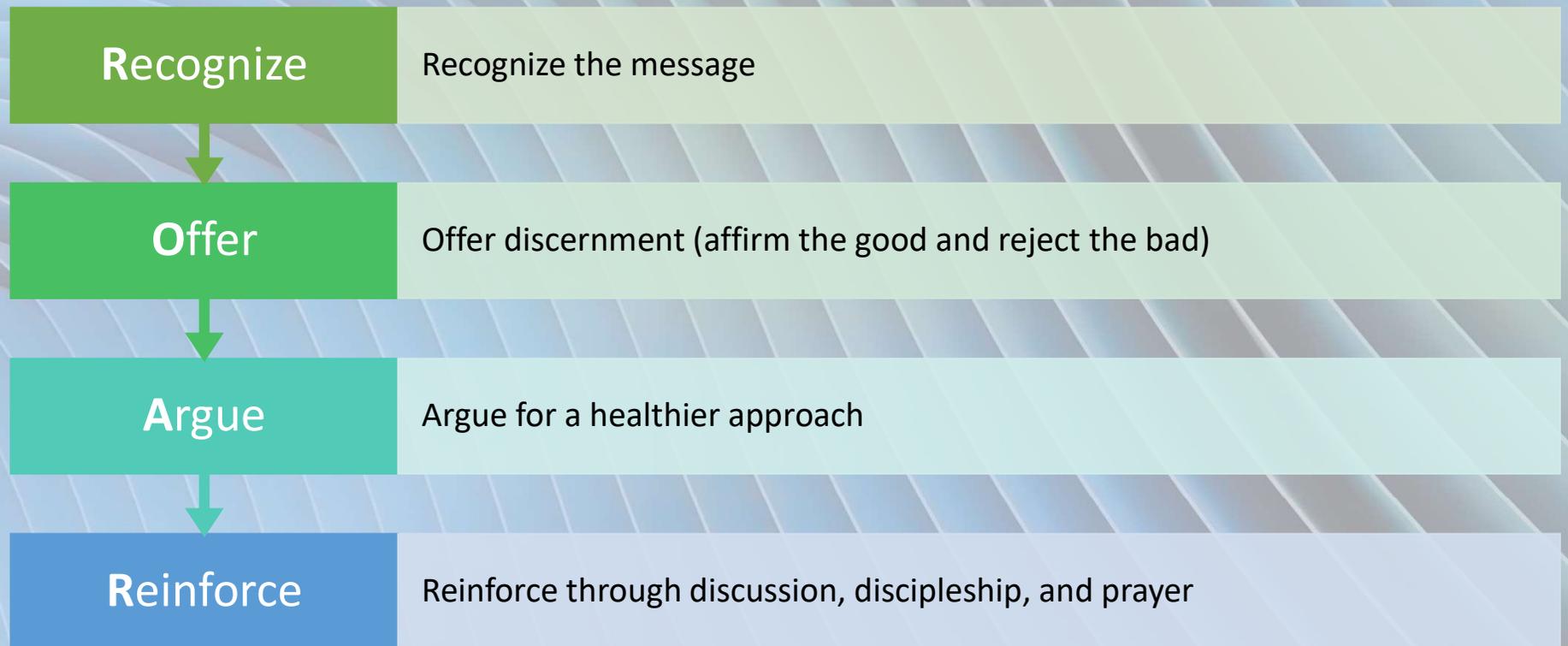
- Biblical discernment means identifying *both* the good and the bad
- We want to keep our kids safe, but part of keeping them safe is teaching them to discern for themselves.
- When it comes to media, we cannot do this by simply labeling things as “safe/dangerous” or “Christian/non-Christian.”

Chew and Spit

- A mature, informed, discerning worldview does not need to fear the false messages that this world churns out if it has already been trained to identify which aspects to reject.
- While good/bad is appropriate for the black-and-white stage of thinking, it becomes counterproductive as they mature.



ROAR Method



The most potent lies are wrapped in partial truths.



Give an example of a word that people use incorrectly. What bothers you about this usage, and how can you communicate the right meaning of the word?



Linguistic Theft

- Linguistic theft refers to purposefully hijacking words, changing their definitions, and then using those same words as tools of propaganda.
 - It is much more sinister than just the evolution of language

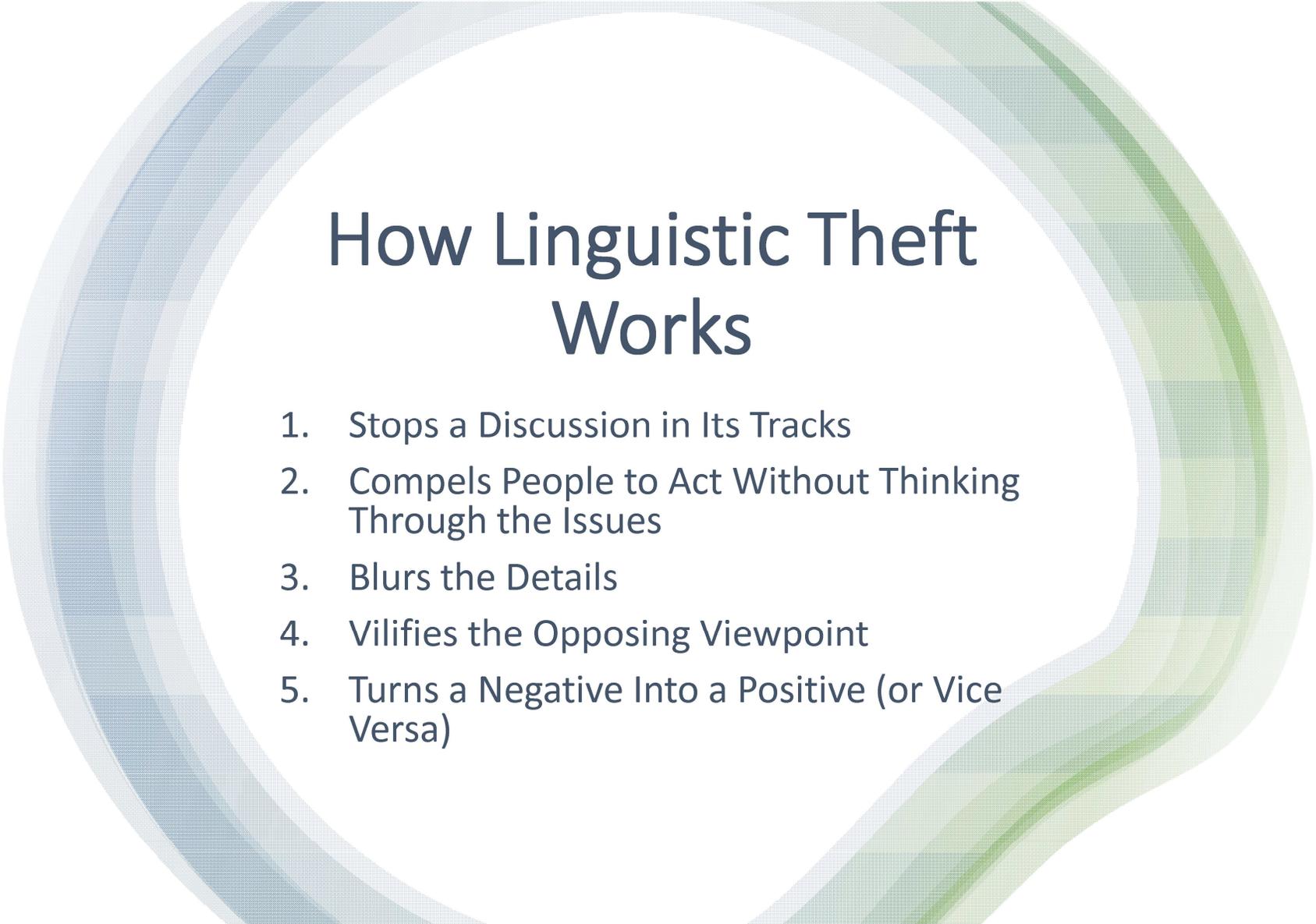
Who cares?
Words are just
a social
construct,
right?

John 1:1,14 – “In the beginning was the *Word*, and *Word* was with God and the *Word* was God...The *Word* became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”

“Once language becomes routinely distorted, it becomes increasingly easy to justify and promote evil – while at the same time hiding behind positive words.” (Holly Ordway, apologist)



- We can teach our children to love God, love their neighbor, and love their enemy. ***But what do we do when the concept of love is replaced by the shallow concept of comfort?***
- For us to say or do anything that makes someone uncomfortable or offended is now considered unloving, and thus we are labeled as haters.



How Linguistic Theft Works

1. Stops a Discussion in Its Tracks
2. Compels People to Act Without Thinking Through the Issues
3. Blurs the Details
4. Vilifies the Opposing Viewpoint
5. Turns a Negative Into a Positive (or Vice Versa)



Stops a Discussion in Its Tracks

- Certain word choices are strategically used to stop conversation by appealing to people's innate sense of right and wrong.
- Our job can be as simple as asking, "What do you mean by that?"
 - "You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means." Inigo Montoya
- Fake definitions obscure the issues, and it doesn't make sense to attempt to carry on a discussion when we're working with two different meanings for the same word.

Compels People to Act Without Thinking Through the Issues

- Emotions are great responders, but horrible leaders.
- When a person has an emotional reaction to a statement, it becomes difficult to think about it rationally.
- Physiological response – a person doesn't *choose* for it to happen
- Those who hijack words figure that most people aren't going to take the time to respond thoughtfully to a crisis.
- An emotional respondent will tend to act without thinking, which is perfect for the manipulator.





Blurs the Details

- Not sure what everyone is upset about? You've probably seen linguistic theft in action.
- The buzzwords give the illusion of offering information, but the real purpose for using such words is it allows people to use their imaginations and fill in the details with what *they* think the word means.



Vilifies the Opposing Viewpoint

- Unfortunately, people on all sides of an argument do this.
- Hitler... the Christians claim he was an atheist, the atheists claim he was a Christian, the right says he was left, the left says he was right. If your camp can make the opposing camp share *anything* in common with Hitler, then you have won, hands down.
- Pay attention to the way you treat opposing viewpoints.
- There is a big difference between being heard and being understood and persuasive.

Turn a Negative into a Positive (or Vice Versa)

- Pro-life/Pro-choice debates
- Popular ministry who new CEO began taking the organization in a different direction
 - Notice the change? A refusal to acknowledge sin is redefined as shouting *love* and *hope*.



Words That Are Being Stolen

Love

Truth

Tolerance

Justice and Equality

Bigot

Authentic

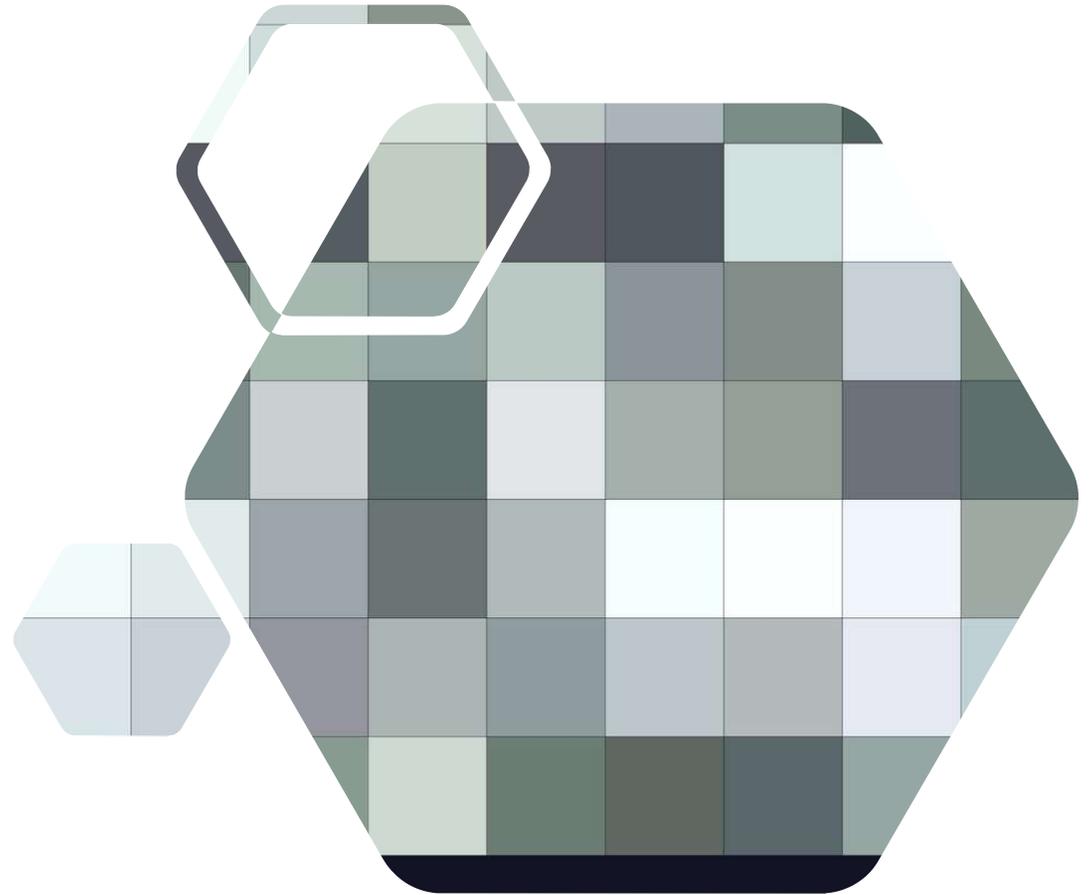
Love

- Everyone loves love, provided they get to define it.
- Ancient Greek – *phileo* (brotherly love), *eros* (sexual love), *agape* (unconditional love), and *storge* (natural, instinctual affection, like parent to child)
- Anything that makes someone uncomfortable is now deemed unloving. Today, to love someone means to blindly accept whatever that person believes, even if his or her belief contradicts reality.
- Because God IS love, He gets to define it. (1 Corinthians 13)



Truth

- We are no longer dealing with *the* truth. “Way too narrow.” Our kids are now encouraged to live *their* truth. This is *my* truth. He’s being authentic to *his* truth.
- I can’t even begin to tell you how dangerous this one lie is. When our society messes with the definition of truth, it is messing with our kids’ very foundation of reality.



Tolerance

- The word tolerance no longer means to live peaceably with people of different beliefs. It now means that all beliefs, no matter how bogus, must be treated as equally legitimate.
- Tolerance (like political correctness) started out as a good idea that responded to valid critique of culture. The concept is very biblical... Romans 14 is devoted to tolerance within the Christian community. Tolerance is implied in the many verses that encourage church unity.
- Oxford Dictionary – “the ability or willingness to tolerate the existence of opinions or behavior that one dislikes or disagrees with”



Justice and Equality

- Every social problem is now being defined in terms of justice and equality.
- If you say anything against any of these movements, it must be because you are content with injustice and inequality.
- Justice is a frequent theme in both the Old and New Testaments and is even an attribute of God.
- Equality of access or worth is being shifted to equality of *outcome*



The side that controls the words *love, truth, tolerance, justice, and equality* is the side that can shut the conversation down, compel people to act without thinking, blur the issues, vilify the opponent, and basically win the argument on emotions alone. Why? *Because everyone already believes in love, tolerance, justice, and equality!*

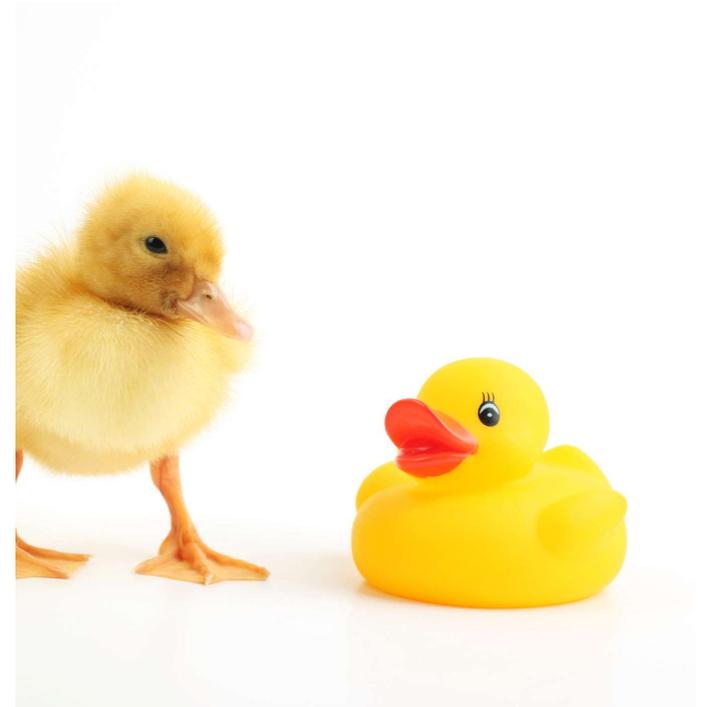
Bigot

- These days, anyone who makes what is perceived to be an exclusive statement is automatically labeled a bigot.
- Do you believe that Jesus is the only way? Well that's a bigoted claim.
- Merriam-Webster – “a person who is obstinately or intolerantly devoted to his or her own opinion and prejudices”
- Popular opinion right now is that all ideas are equally legitimate, and anyone who does not agree is a bigot.



Authentic

- Biblical take on authenticity – encouraging people toward authenticity to help them admit to their sinfulness, experience conviction (as opposed to shame and condemnation) and love one another despite our struggles.
- The hijacked version of the word says that if something doesn't come naturally, or doesn't feel natural, then it is inauthentic and therefore fake.
- Healthy authenticity stops where unhealthy tolerance of sin begins. If you're not perfect, don't pretend to be. If you are imperfect, don't revel in it. The purpose of authenticity is to loosen the chains of silence so that people can pursue freedom from the sin that binds them, not so they can live comfortably with their chains without feeling judged by anyone.



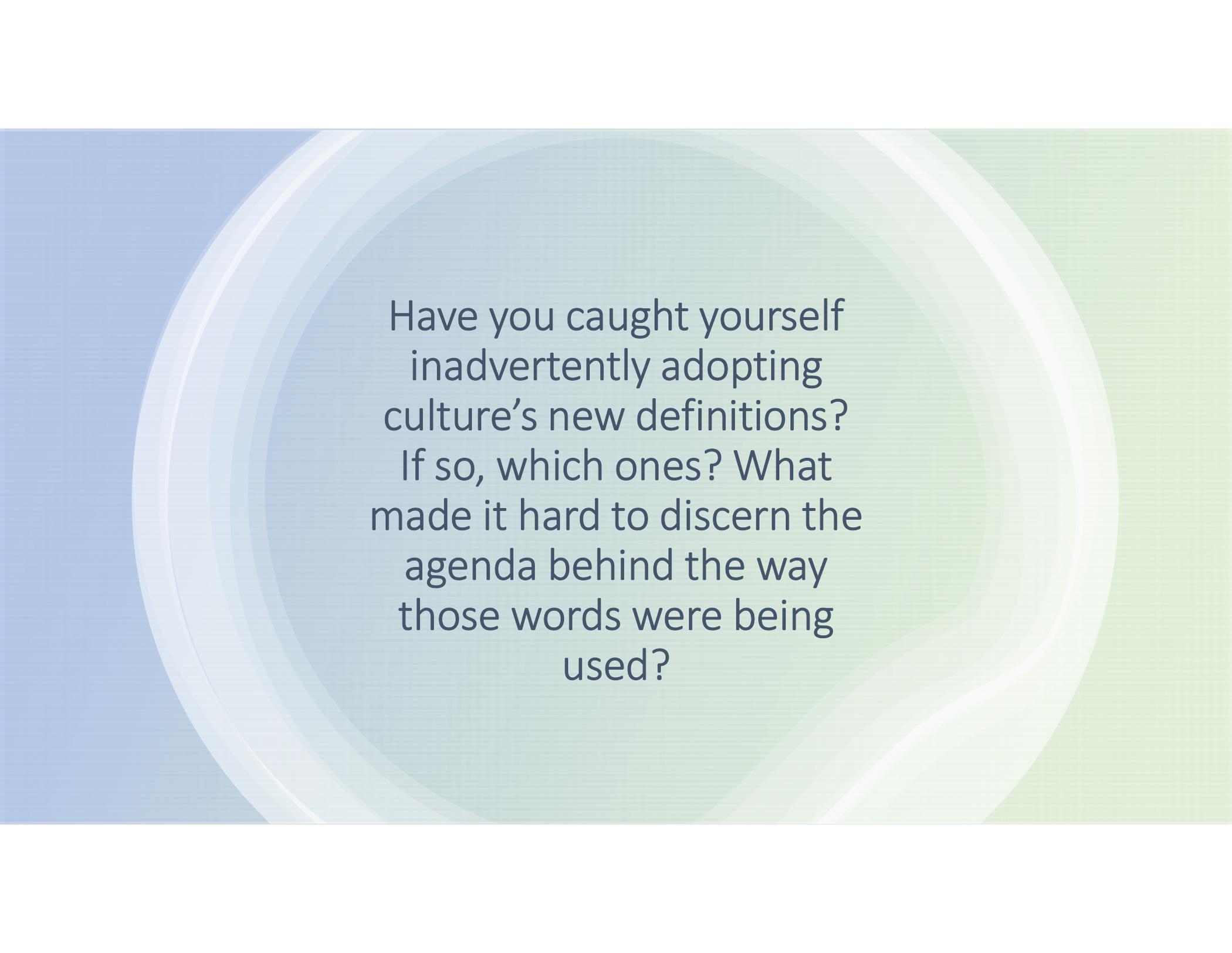


How to Fight Back Without Being a Jerk

- Know the biblical definitions of these words
- Teach your kids to identify buzzwords
- Identify when you are embarrassed to state your position
- Decide to be salt and light

The Bible says blessed are the *peacemakers*, not the *peacekeepers*. A *peacekeeper* will not rock the boat, and the peace is a shallow one based on silence in the face of destructive evil. A *peacemaker* is someone who *creates* peace by getting everyone on the same page.

We cannot do this without making a few waves, or without countering bad logic with good.



Have you caught yourself
inadvertently adopting
culture's new definitions?
If so, which ones? What
made it hard to discern the
agenda behind the way
those words were being
used?

Now that you understand why we are discussing apologetics, how to be a “Mama Bear”, what it means to be discerning, and where the battle is taking place (words), it’s time to turn you loose. In the upcoming chapters, we will discuss the most popular lies of contemporary society, where they came from, and how we can ROAR against them.

