

Loaded Words: "Word"

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- **Introduction:** Can you think of a word that has changed in use and meaning? Can we see how people might be influenced or confused by words?

Heather Choate Davis (p. 15 of "Loaded Words"):

- i. We live in an era that is reliant on words, but our words are no longer reliable.
- ii. Words that help communicate the Gospel must be stripped of spin and confusion and returned to their original understanding.
- iii. The apostle John uses *logos* ("Word") as the God-given identity of Jesus Christ.

Part I: Identity Revealed - Word... Who is God... what is God up to?

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. (Read Gen. 1:1-5ff)

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (Read 2 Tim. 3:12-17)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (Read John 1:1-4 and 5-14)

Do you see the identity of the Word as expressed in only three Scripture texts (see box above)? Do you see the Triune God? How does the leading of the Word transform life?

What is the problem... the world's problem? (Hint: Man turned in...) - Satan's first words were to deceive... to question God's Word. "*Did God really say...*" (See Gen. 3:1). Questioning the truth of God's Word... and not trusting/following His Word, identity and authority is the age-old problem of mankind... influenced by Satan's native language (lies).

Part I: An era of words... trust... truth ("Loaded Words" p. 12-13)

- How are we bombarded with words... do words matter?
- Can we take people at their "word"? What about in years past?
- Why is "Word"... a loaded word for a Christian? Non-Christian?
 - Covenants... God and people... who broke the covenants (God or people?) What are the consequences of this?
 - What is the truth? (Read *John 17:13-19*)
 - So we have a battle between the Word... Jesus... full of grace and truth (Word that brings His means of grace) received and trusted by faith... and the old Adam... sin, lies and rebellion to the truth that lives in us and is fostered by the evil one.

Part II: How do we have conversations about God, His Word, His body... His actions and His promises... Law & Gospel... in a world that distracts words?

- How does the Word come into people's lives?
 - Word coming into lives/relationships, mentoring, loving, serving, caring, connecting, sharing (SJ Mission & Vision)
 - Ten Words... vs. Ten Commandments (Love of God / Love of Neighbor)... God's will for our lives.
 - Bible study, prayer, songs, worship.
- In our relationships... there are words hold back people from properly understanding relationships under the authority of Father, Son and Holy Spirit... *Loaded Words*... and the no-spin zone of the Bible (sin, hell, submit, church, saved, confess, Satan, judgment, religion, Christian, repent, etc.). It all flows from the truth of the Word of God.

We don't worship the Bible (that would be idolatry)... yet we recognize that God speaks and reveals Himself through the Scriptures... that faith comes by hearing the Word of God. But... the Word (Jesus) ≥ the Bible... and He is at work beyond the Bible.

What is the significance of Jesus Christ being the Word... what difference does that make? Everything... *In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.*

Go... shine God's light... live life in the truth of the Word in all the relationships He has created for you!