

The Gospel Unashamed

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

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~ All articles written by Terry Carter unless otherwise stated ~

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Terry Carter, Editor

It's Orwellian



The term "Orwellian" refers to the writings of George Orwell, particularly his novel *1984*. What I am about to discuss fits what is found in that book as well as his book *Animal Farm*.

In *1984*, the main character, Winston Smith, lives in a world where you are constantly reminded that "Big Brother is watching you". The official language where he lives is called "newspeak" to distinguish it from the way people used to talk. Winston works at the "Ministry of Truth". His job is to go back into old records, like newspapers, and "correct" anything that no longer fits with the current narrative or would be embarrassing to those in power. The party in power has contradictory slogans like, "War is

Peace", "Freedom is Slavery", and "Ignorance is Strength". Winston is eventually tortured by a man who claims that two plus two equals five or any number you please.

In *Animal Farm*, the animals fight the humans and take over the farm. Then they post seven commandments on the barn in big white letters for all to see. The fourth commandment stated that, "No animal shall sleep in a bed", the fifth said, "No animal shall drink alcohol", the sixth read, "No animal shall kill any other animal", and the seventh stated, "All animals are equal".

After a while, one of the animal leaders wanted to sleep in a bed. When the other animals read the fourth commandment it now said, "No animal shall sleep in a bed with sheets". That is not what they remembered, but they figured that their memory was wrong. After all, that is what it said on the wall.

Later, after some animals had been executed, they read the sixth commandment which now said, "No animal shall kill any other animal without cause". They

wondered how they had forgotten the last two words.

One night, there was quite a commotion that caused all the animals to come running outside of the barn. There they found a broken ladder along with a pot of white paint that had been spilled, a paintbrush, a lantern, and a stunned pig. Most of the animals had no idea what this meant. However, a few days later after reading the fifth commandment, they discovered that they had forgotten the last two words of it too. It now said, "No animal shall drink alcohol to excess".

Towards the end of the book, they find that there is only one thing on the barn rather than seven commandments. It simply says, "All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others".

There are probably quite a number of things in the news currently or recently that come to mind when you consider the contents of these books by Orwell. Rather than go through the list of things that come to my mind, I would like to share

just one thing with you that I came across recently.

Last spring, the school was given two old dictionaries. One is a 1959 edition of Webster's New International Dictionary, second edition, unabridged. It is twelve inches by nine and a half inches and stands five inches thick when closed. The other one is the 1911 edition of the Century Dictionary. It is the same length and width as the other, but it is nine and a half inches thick when closed.

I have been hearing people say that sex and gender are not the same thing. Sex, they say, is about biology, but gender is not. So, I looked up the word "gender" in each of these dictionaries and found the following:

In the 1959 dictionary, the second definition given says, "Sex, male or female". That is clear and it is worth noting that it only gives two different sexes or genders.

The 1911 dictionary was equally clear. It simply says, "Sex, male or female". Once again, it gives only two sexes or genders.

Both older dictionaries use the words "sex" and "gender" as synonyms.

By contrast, when I look up gender on Google, I find the following:

The Oxford Language Dictionary gives the rather lengthy definition, "The male or the female sex, especially when considered with reference to social and cultural differences rather than biological ones, or one of a range of other identities that do not correspond to

established ideas of male and female".

Funny how I only remembered the first six words of that definition from my school days. I had completely forgotten the last thirty-three words. Well, that must be right since it is on Google, I guess.

Google also brought up other questions that people asked. Under the question, "What is the simple definition of gender", Google shows the answer given by the World Health Organization. It is quite simple. It says, "Gender refers to the characteristics of women, men, girls, and boys that are socially constructed. This includes norms, behaviors and roles associated with being a woman, man, girl, or boy, as well as relationships with each other."

Wow! That is so much simpler and clearer than the 1911 or 1959 versions of "Sex, male or female". I hope you are picking up on my sarcasm in the last couple of paragraphs because I have been laying it on pretty thick.

Evidently, things have been painted over while we slept. I hope we have better memories than the animals in George Orwell's book. We certainly live in an era of Newspeak where Big Brother is watching, and the Ministry of Truth is "correcting" anything from the past that no longer fits the narrative of today or is embarrassing to those in power. We are given contradictory slogans like "Men can be Women", "Men can have Babies", Sex is not Gender", and others too vile to be printed here.

It is Orwellian, and we are being treated like dumb animals.

Ignorance is not strength except for those who would oppress us with sinful rebellion towards both God and nature. Do not be fooled, let God be true and every man a liar. Two plus two does not equal five, or any other number except four no matter how much they torture us with their propaganda and political pressure.

"20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! 21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!" Isaiah 5:20-21 (NKJV)

Big Brother may be watching, but we serve a God who is the biggest of all, and He is watching.

