

## **Words - a deteriorating communication tool - 11-27-22 sent to Minneapolis StarTrib**

A system of common language should accurately convey emotions, opinions, motivations, etc. However, the effectiveness of our language has deteriorated, causing chaos, anger, and division. Some examples follow.

The Critical Race Theory (CRT) debate remains at a razor's edge. A CRT "manual" deserves some blame. Ibram X. Kendi, author of "How to be an Antiracist," provides a mini glossary prior to most chapters. Many common terms are redefined. Confused debate participants end up talking past each other, creating anger, rather than mutual understanding.

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson was asked if she could define the term "woman" during her Senate confirmation hearings for SCOTUS. She answered "no," causing confusion for many.

A distinction between "right and wrong" is disappearing with the onset of the "moral relativism" concept. Asking someone to characterize an action as "right or wrong" often receives little more than a variation of the comment, "that depends."

Following the mass killing in a Colorado Springs gay nightclub, an AP news report used "his" when referring to the suspect. The next day, the presumed killer was first referred to as "suspect" in an AP follow-up. The pronouns that followed were "they" and "their." This confused reader assumed "typo." Rather, the suspect's attorneys had disclosed he was nonbinary and uses the pronouns "they/them."

Let's seek to achieve a world when right vs. wrong engenders some certainty; when supporting biological women's rights isn't bigotry; when understanding numerous personal pronoun alternatives isn't required; and when the word "woman" doesn't represent an abstract concept.

***Steve Bakke***  
***Retired CPA & Commercial Finance Executive***  
***6055 Blake Ridge Road***  
***Edina, MN 55436***  
***612-590-1853***