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TODAY'S "QUICK HIT": POLITICS AND DECEPTION



By Stephen L. Bakke  December 4, 2016

Here's what provoked me:

We can't even agree on the meaning of concepts like hate, fear, and racism. Have political definitions changed or is it just people changing their values and priorities?

Here's my response:

Politics and Deception

The December 4 report "Hate crimes on the rise? Police make it hard to know," attempts to sensitize us to the uncertain frequency of true hate crimes in today's society. I wonder if a phenomenon I've been seeing has anything to do with the confusion over identifying and confronting these crimes. Have we cheapened the meaning of real transgressions so that we don't recognize the real thing?

For example, start with these common public attitudes:

- Responsible concerns about an "unvetted" flow of citizens from terrorist dominated countries.
- Support for physical border security.
- Rejection of the argument that the threat of radical Islam is irrational.
- Criticism of establishing "sanctuary cities."
- A desire to discuss the definition of life as it relates to the abortion issue.
- Concern that serious problems are being crowded out by gender identity issues and "potty politics."
- Support for school vouchers.
- Support for police and the rule of law.

Sprinkle on "liberal" doses of foolish comments and political correctness and you end up with what is now being called hatred, misogyny, sexism, racism, greed, fear, and "a-bunch-a-phobias." Have we cheapened the meaning of these words? I believe we have, and this has led to contradictions and confusion.

Now we can't even agree on the meaning of concepts like hatred, racism, and fear. No wonder we are so divided. Have people changed their values and priorities, or is it just an expanding list of deceptive definitions for use in identity politics? I think deceptive politics is the culprit.