

 **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**
REFUSING TO
RECOGNIZE REAL EVIL
IS DESTRUCTIVE and
MORALLY
REPREHENSIBLE!



By Stephen L. Bakke  August 27, 2014

Here's what provoked me:

I came across a letter to editor that criticized an opinion article that I had previously found quite fair and objective. The critic introduced very obvious arguments using moral relativism to shut off any attempts to promote "peace through strength." The critic stated: "Who determines what is and isn't evil? we should not be the final arbiter of what is evil. And what constitutes righteousness, and whose moral convictions?" I had to protest this destructive position!

Here's my response:

Refusing to recognize a clear definition of real evil is destructive!

Re: "If seeking peace coddles evil, who defines 'evil'?" by Robert Howard, 8-27-14. The writer attempts to refute an opinion from 8-26, "The problem with peace," by Kaywin Eleanor. Howard claims the author's statement in the first paragraph is a conclusion: i.e the "goal of peace is morally reprehensible." But read on!

Howard goes on to trumpet sadly misguided moral relativism with these statements: "Who determines what is and isn't evil? we should not be the final arbiter of what is evil. And what constitutes righteousness, and whose moral convictions?"

The 8-26 article by Kaywin Eleanor is clearly claiming that much is lost by Howard's type of a morally relative definition of peace. Eleanor's message is that peace is "morally reprehensible" when we end up with "moralistic complacency" – i.e. when by maintaining peace you "do nothing about the evil that is around you to die because you refused to fight in the name of peace is cowardly. Cowardice lets the wicked do as he pleases."

Here is the real conclusion at the end of the Eleanor's 8-26 article: **"When we trumpet peace over righteousness and tolerance over moral conviction, we lay down our weapons and hope others will do the same. They will not."**

Mr. Howard, you should at least criticize the real message! And please consider my assertion that your refusal to acknowledge a clear definition of evil is destructive!



Ya' gotta' recognize evil!