

The Concurrently Companion



Episode 50: Our Top Ten Words of 2023

Topic introduction

We have created our list of the top 10 terms of the year, words that center around topics we've covered in our 50 podcast episodes to date. They are integral to the cultural discussion of our day, things your kids or teens might be encountering. Some of these words have been misused, abused, or misunderstood. In our episode, we take a first step toward recapturing their true meaning—and pass the baton to you!

Key terms: *bias, “biblically objective journalism,” artificial intelligence/machine learning, fascism, hyperbole, autocratic, dictator, nationalism, virtue signaling, ethics, hypocrisy, gender, genocide, trauma, PTSD, suffering, euthanasia, voluntary, coercion, terrorism*

Questions

The terms above are dense with meaning and history—deserving of a more thorough look through a tool like the Big 5 (*definition, circumstance, comparison, relationship, authority*)—you could create an entire class period for each one!

Have you misused, overused, or forgotten to carefully define these words with your kids and students? Now's your chance to track things down. Make it a “quest for truth”! Ask them what they *think* the words mean as you begin this conversation—you will learn about their thinking even as you carefully pursue truth and meaning.

Consider: What is your go-to dictionary in the house or classroom? How often do you and your kids and students employ it? What other go-to tools do you refer to often and in what ways? What is your go-to content for sparking conversations with your kids?

Ask along with us:

- Where are we seeing or hearing the term?
- Who is using it?
- How is it being used or misused?
- What does it really mean?

What attracts us to a strong leader? What is dangerous about a strong leader? What did Jesus' leadership look like? How does that influence our interpretation of our role in the world as followers of Christ? How does that influence our expectations of our leaders in government and elsewhere?

Where are you seeing virtue signaling? Do you see this in your peer group? How does it make you feel? What do you know to be true about who you are in Christ? Where does real virtue originate? Where do you see the Lord at work producing His fruit, His real virtues, in you?

What are some ways we can communicate boundaries that "soothe" our children with truth? While our truth framework can supply anchors and healthy limits, our caring questions can probe their thinking and feeling regarding identity/sex/gender: How are you feeling? Are you feeling confused? What did God say about humanity at the dawn of time? And whom did He send to restore us? What do you remember about whom you were made to be in Christ? Whom did He send to us to be our "better helper"? How does this helper work in our lives?

What do we believe about sin regarding the intentions of the heart as well as commitment of sin in action? How does this apply to genocide? How does this become difficult in a society committed to "free speech"? Does hateful speech need to be regulated? Explain.

Scriptural anchors/provision

Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. — Psalm 139:4

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. — Psalm 19:14

Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. — Daniel 2:20-21

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