

THOUGHTS

By Douglas W. Schroeder

SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

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2018

Thoughts
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MARRIAGE BECOMING FLUID

Expect the world to continue pushing the boundaries of marriage, and consequently of sexual relationships, toward the edge of the absurd. In fact, we are already there with homosexuality, gender selection, LGBTQ, and now... "marriage" to a hologram! From the image in the online article it appears to be a stunt, as it looks like he is in a makeshift shipping container. But, if it is a real attempt to find happiness it marks a new low for humans' goal of filling hollow (hollow) spiritual lives.

Without Jesus Christ, our Lord, life is hollow. Especially in countries such as Japan, where the Gospel is being proclaimed by The Word Today, millions live with no future hope. The only joy that can be assured is to seek happiness here. That technology and "success" obsessed culture turns to very strange ways to find satisfaction. Pray fervently that the seeds of faith are planted in that country through our program!

OUR GREAT GOAL IN 2019

The five new languages that The Word Today has committed to will be operational in 2019. The cost will be an additional \$65,000 per year. We will be reaching hundreds of thousands of people who have never had an encounter with Christ as presented in the Bible! Many are Muslims, who will be interested in knowing more about Jesus, and we will lead them to see Jesus as the world's only Redeemer.

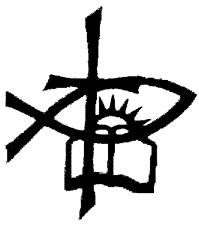
Please respond in like fashion, as I have challenged the members of Our Shepherd Lutheran, to grow powerfully our giving to God to sustain this new set of five languages! One family or individual with the means can ensure evangelism of an entire people group for about \$12-15,000! There is no more efficient and powerful evangelism ministry that I know of, where all of your offering is used for the ministry, for evangelism!

"SELFIE AWARENESS"

Now, that's a new one for me. It seems Millennials are disappointed in their appearance on images taken on their phones. Detecting double chins, they are increasingly resorting to double chin removal procedures! Can you say totally self-absorbed? The New Testament focuses on development of self-control as a fruit of the Spirit (see Galatians 5), and not so surprisingly self-image is not terribly important to the New Testament. One way to be godlier is to drop the pretense.

UNWITTING HYPOCISY

As I led worship on a Saturday evening recently, two men in our parish noticed the shirt I was wearing and asked me about it. They were surprised that I was wearing a Nike shirt after I had publicly said I would boycott the company. I had not even noticed the small swoosh logo on the shirt sleeve! We had a good laugh at how "hypocritical" I was.



*The Bible is God's Word . . . Jesus is God's "Word" made flesh . . .
His death and resurrection, the message needed Today.*

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The incident brings many good lessons, including taking care that we are not inadvertently doing something that militates against our witness, personally confronting in a loving manner someone whom we think may be acting hypocritically, and having grace toward someone who does not act perfectly in accord with their confession. The occasion certainly reminded me of why we need to deal with each other in love rather than sternness. The person may not even be aware of the infraction!

DO YOU "IDENTIFY" AS YOUNGER THAN YOUR AGE?

Fox News had a segment regarding a Dutch businessman, Emile Ratelbrand, who claimed he was a "young god," and attempted to legally change his age from 69 to 49! He figured that it would change all legal documentation, and allow him to meet women, "When I'm 49, with the face I have, I will be in a luxurious position (to meet women)."

We can certainly try, can't we?

It's obvious Mr. Ratelbrand understands the way of the world; to manipulate circumstances to one's advantage, regardless of how it might negatively impact society. Supposedly our "young god," failed to impress upon the court that he suffers age discrimination.

How do such nonsense as animal rights and identifying as someone other than whom you really are come about? It is a direct outcome from abdication of the Judeo-Christian worldview. As cultures adopt Darwinism, Nihilism, Atheism, all of which have no absolute moral basis, the law becomes squishy, flexible in peoples' minds. The sinful nature gloms onto loopholes in order to gain advantage. Mr. Ratelbrand was simply more creative than most in applying foolish standards in Holland to advantage himself.

We will continue to have plenty of such nonsense in the future, along with horribly skewed sexual practices as the LGBTQ movement continues to erode our culture's taboo against perversion.

What our friend Emile needs to do is identify as a sinner, one who will continue to age and succumb to death. He needs to stare reality in the face – his own face! Identifying as something other than you are is a joke, and a rather manipulative way of attempting to get what you want. When one is a hermaphrodite, a choice must be made. In other circumstances it's obnoxious individualism.

Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder