

The Importance of Words to the *RSVP America* Campaign

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

Webster considered "education useless without the Bible." He said, "In my view, the Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government, ought to be instructed.¹ The importance of Webster's dictionary is that the understanding and the meanings of the words in his American English dictionary are drawn from the Scriptures. This was a departure from Johnson's dictionary widely used in England. Johnson rooted words in the classics of literature and other works of men. Webster chose God's work, the Scriptures, and fought a hard won battle over Johnson and his dictionary in the America. Thank God for Noah Webster.

The following words, **tolerance**, **purity**, **chastity** and **abstinence** and **abstain**, are pertinent to the *RSVP America* campaign. Read the definitions carefully especially purity and chastity. These words connote a Way of life. A pure heart is possible only when the soul is saved from sin and destruction by the redeeming blood of Jesus Christ. A chaste life is much more than saying "no." It encompasses manner, speech, dress, etc. This is a standard only the Church can truthfully and rightly hold.

Abstinence is a word that works in and for the world because it implies a need or hunger which must be fed to sustain life. Abstinence can also mean moderation of an act and not its elimination. As for abstinence programs in the schools, Jim Woodall, CEO of Concerned Women for America, a missionary whose work with CWA has given him the opportunity to work in the Congress in some of our nation's most difficult issues, says; "the only reason we are allowed to discuss abstinence programs in the schools is because it is just another one of the "choices" a your child can make about his or her sexual life. Since the education establishment in America has adopted the Kinsey model which says "children are sexual from birth," abstinence or not, the critical factor is that the child, in law and public policy, is out from under the parent's authority in these matters. Children decide for themselves. Abstinence can also mean in some sex education programs saying yes to any sexual act which does not include vaginal penetration, that is what they call "outrcourse." Abstinence allows Christians a place at the secular table, however, at the Kinseyan sexual smorgasbord, "Abstinence" is just an empty tray.

In the centers of intellectual life in western Europe, Antonio Gramsci was revered by the Knowledge Class. Unlike Marx and Lenin and other Communist thinkers of his time, Gramsci did not believe that violent revolution by the masses would ever be victorious worldwide. He had a better idea. " those who want to change society must change men's consciousness, and that in order to accomplish this they must first control the institutions by which that consciousness is formed: schools, universities, churches, and perhaps above all, the arts and communications industry. His famous battle cry was 'Capture the Culture.'" The meaning of words can be known thanks to Noah Webster. Words are the fundamental element in the ABC's of elementary and secondary schools and university studies, in the preaching of the Churches, and the arts and communication industry rely on words. Knowing what we mean and others mean when they use words is critical at this juncture in the campaign to keep from being confused and/or deceived.

¹ Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary, Also: Horace Mann, the father of progressive education, was opposed to our fundamental conceptions of our American Constitution namely, property, self-government and voluntary union. Mann removed the *spirit* of Constitutionalism and allowed only the *letter* to remain. Horace Mann in the 1840's removed the Bible and its sacred purpose from the schools, not the Supreme Court in the 1960's.