

Redefining Truth has Consequences

By Raynard Jackson



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In all organized sports, there are clearly defined rules that must be adhered to. In all universities, there are clearly stated guidelines for admittance. In all religions, there are shared beliefs that all members must adhere to. Without these clearly defined rules of engagement (ROEs), there can be no order within groups; and without order there is nothing left but chaos.

Groups and organizations, by definition are all predicated upon certain agreed upon principles and values. These agreed upon principles and values are the *raison d'être* of these entities.

You join the Boy Scouts, for example, because you are a boy and you join the Girl Scouts because you are a girl. You are a male because you are born with a penis and you are a girl because you are born with a vagina. These things used to be unquestioned statements of fact.

Now some parents are filing law suits because their daughters want the legal right to join the Boy Scouts. Some males, on the other hand, want the right to join a sorority while some females want the right to join a fraternity. To call this a ball of confusion is an understatement.

Sadly, sexuality is no longer determined at birth and is no longer absolute. You now can legally (in California) "self-identify" your sex. You can be born a male and simply wake up and say you "self-identify" as a girl and legally you can play on your high school's girls softball team; you must be allowed to use the girls bathroom; and you must be allowed to wear a dress to class.

Now, right is wrong; up is down, black is white; and there are no rules.

Rules are created in order to maintain order and control. No matter where you go throughout the world, the rules for basketball, American football, and baseball are the same.

Conversely, when you have no clearly defined rules, you have chaos instead of order. This is exactly what is happening in America in particular and the world in general. Rules are the glue that keeps a society together. Rules make the family

into a functioning unit. Rules create the framework for dispute resolution.

In America, as in most countries, murder is deemed wrong and society universally punishes the perpetrators. Killing can be justified (self-defense), but murder (the taking of an innocent life) can never be justified. Honoring one's mother and father is just simply expected in our society.

These rules are necessary to create a society where there is structure and order. Rules also create a sense of security and freedom for the people.

How can you have a functioning country when you can no longer define the family unit? For time immemorial, the family has been mother, father, and children; and in some cases grandparents, uncles, or aunts, also known as the extended family. Now, agreement on the definition of the family unit has become mired in controversy. Some want Johnny to have two dads or Jenny to have two moms. Some want Rahim to have one father, but three mothers (all legally married to the one father). Some simply want mother and child.

Study after study has shown that the family unit is the most stabilizing force in a society and that children who are reared with a mother and father are best positioned to be successful in life.

You can't prevent or resolve disputes unless you have rules that have been agreed upon by society that are compatible with the values of a country. Most Americans don't commit crimes because we have been instilled with a sense of what is right and wrong; also because we know crimes will be met with certain punishment.

When there are disputes, you have courts, Congress, and government to turn to for redress. Today, you have judges ignoring case law and the will of the people and injecting their personal feelings into cases such as homosexual "marriage." Congress is incapable of passing bipartisan legislation that is truly in the best interest of America. Government is totally incapable of solving conflict because there is no consensus as to what the rules of engagement are.

I am a huge proponent of individual freedom, but freedom can't exist without some agreed upon rules of engagement. You can't have children born as one sex and then be allowed to simply "self-identify" as to something totally different. You can't – or shouldn't – seek to become a member of, say, a Pentecostal church and then refuse to comport yourself in a manner consistent with their rules (including a prohibition against homosexuality), and then call them a bigot if they refuse you membership.

This altering of what it means to be an American will lead to our demise as a global leader. Even freedom has its orderly limitations.

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Bobby McFerrin: "Don't Worry, Be Healthy"



Bobby McFerrin is a 10-time Grammy Award winner, but best known for his smash laid-back hit, "Don't Worry, Be Happy." The song caught the attention of the entire country in the last 1980's with McFerrin using his voice and parts of his body as "instruments" for the entire song. Bobby has been performing music all his life, it's literally been a comfort for him. In fact, he believes that music itself is healing.

"When I was a kid, my mother took music [as a healer] literally," McFerrin explained. "When we got sick, she'd put us to bed and put music on to make us feel better. Even now, if I'm getting ready for a concert and I have a headache or I'm worried about something, I can usually sing my way through it. When I come off stage, I feel better."

"From a psychological evaluation, we found that classical music tends to cause comfort. This is because the sympathetic nerve is suppressed by the sound of classical music," noted Dr. Umemura Honda, in a medical journal article entitled, "Influence of music on heart rate variability and comfort — a consideration through comparison of music and noise."

Music also was found to reduce stress in patients undergoing cerebral angiography. In a study of 30 patients, two doctors from Hannover Medical School's Department of Neuroradiology monitored stress hormones, blood pressure and heart beat. They found that the patients who were not exposed to music "showed rising levels of cortisol in their blood, indicating high stress levels, while cortisol in patients examined with music remained stable. Blood pressure was significantly lower listening to music."

McFerrin still performs and tours as a musician, songwriter, conductor, arranger and producer in front of sold-out audiences all over the world.



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