



# Point of View

Dear Marketplace Friend,

Mom (*everyone's Mom*) had it right: *"Watch what you say!"* The old reaction to misspoken words - *"to clean one's mouth out with soap"* (now considered child abuse, but in the Beaver Cleaver era, a valuable threat in the parenting arsenal) - presumed that one's words are important to filter and sophisticate...

You'll be remembered for what you say, that's for sure. One-liners have a way of following us around through life. Example: when I quote, "Wouldn't be prudent," whose voice do you hear? Answer: George H. W. Bush (or, more accurately, Dana Harvey impersonating the 41st President). Here's another: "Can't we all just get along?" Nope, that's not Rush Limbaugh or Al Franken (hardly!); it's Rodney King, whose videotaped beating by Los Angeles police in '92 sparked nationwide tension.

That line won't die. Movements have been initiated using that memorable motto. If the Baha'i faith was in need of a Pope (they don't have one), Rodney might be a candidate. His utterance is their foundational doctrine.

Founded in 19th Century Persia (Iran), with roots in Shia Islam, the Baha'i hold three key beliefs: 1) the unity of God; 2) the unity of religion; and, 3) the unity of mankind. *"Can't we all just get along?"* would be the Gospel of



Baha'i. Their position toward all of the religions now at war: everyone is right in what they say about God... unless and until they say that someone else is wrong in what they say about God. Then, they're wrong, but until then, they were right. *"All roads lead to heaven,"* as long as you call it *"religion."*

The late-night comics love having George W. Bush in the White House: he keeps them in material. If Hillary wins, they'll be using test patterns on the networks, come 11:35 every night. She's too careful; Bush, on the other hand, is too normal. Barbara should call him every day and do what moms are supposed to do: *"Watch what you say!"* Will the Secret Service detain you if you threaten to wash the President's mouth out with soap?

He did it again, last week. Off-message; didn't read the teleprompter; never met with the experts to confirm his comments. What was the slip-up? Here you go: *"Well, first of all, I believe in an Almighty God, and I believe that all the world, whether they be Muslim, Christian, or any other religion,*

*prays to the same God. That's what I believe. I believe that Islam is a great religion that preaches peace..."* He didn't say that to a taxi driver at the Minneapolis airport; instead, it was Al Arabiya reporter Elie Nakouzi.

Bush ought to consult retiring Catholic bishop Martinus Muskens - who has served Rome in his posting at Breda, Netherlands - who adds this insight: *"Allah is a very beautiful word for God. Shouldn't we all say that from now on? We will name God 'Allah.' What does God care what we call Him?"* Ibrahim Hooper, a spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a Washington, D.C.-based Islamic civil liberties and advocacy group, backs the idea as a way to help interfaith understanding. *"It reinforces the fact that Muslims, Christians and Jews all worship the same God. I don't think the name is as important as the belief in God and following God's moral principles. I think that's true for all faiths,"* he told Fox News.

Does God care what you call Him? Any student of the Bible knows that it discloses dozens of titles for the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The New Testament book of Hebrews narrows God's connection with man in this way: *"In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he*

*has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father?' Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'." (Hebrews 1:1-5.)*

The *Commander in Chief* is not the *Theologian in Residence*. Rodney King is not the King of Kings. Baha'i is wrong. God is particular; He decides what we are supposed to call Him... and He has called us to recognize the Lord Jesus Christ as God's ultimate manifestation of Himself to mankind.

Say "yes" to Jesus, and he'll wash your sinful heart with his cleansing blood. Say that to a person who worships Allah, and you'll definitely not all get along...

Bob Shank

*Bob Shank is Founder and Chief Mentoring Officer of The Master's Program (TMP).*

To learn more about TMP visit:

[www.mastersprogram.org](http://www.mastersprogram.org)

To read prior issues of the Point of View visit:

[www.mastersprogram.net](http://www.mastersprogram.net)