

## **Slacktivism**

Every quarter the Oxford dictionary releases its list of new words added to the dictionary. There are always several words that are pop culture words that leave you scratching your head as to why they made it in there. The September 2016 version didn't disappoint with words like 'Merica (slang for America) and fuhgeddaboudit (New England slang for "forget about it").

Slacktivism is another new word that piqued my interest. It is the idea of supporting a cause without actually doing the work of supporting that cause. It is the combination of the words slacker and activism. It is prevalent in the internet sphere where people will post an article on Facebook or other social media trying to simply raise awareness of a problem. It might have a picture of a boy who was shot in a war and tell the reader to "share and say Amen."

This is problematic for a few reasons. First, many of these posts are fake and are being used to access your personal information. The best advice is to just keep scrolling. Second, by sharing, are you actually doing any good? If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? (Jam 2:16).

It was trendy a couple years ago for schools to have "Pink Out" games where players would wear pink in support of breast cancer awareness. What they found was that most of these pink products donated little to no money for cancer research. It really just made people feel good about helping without actually helping. Also, it made people's wallets even lighter when they were too light to begin with. It wasn't as much activism as it was slacktivism.

How do we live? When we see a need do we send up a prayer as we walk by, or do we put our faith in action?

The problem with slacktivism is that it is dead faith. It is doing the bare minimum to make ourselves feel better instead of honoring God by our actions. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house (Mal 3:10). God doesn't call us to do the bare minimum. He calls us to be lights that illuminate Him (Mat 5:14-16). We need to be showing our good deeds so that the world will see the Father in heaven!

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