Crying Wolf

The Quick Take:

1. We know from the story of the little boy who cried wolf that raising false alarms eventually instills apathy.
2. That’s what the Southern Poverty Law Center is doing today with the term “hate.”
3. They falsely designate Christian ministries as “hate groups” simply for holding to historic, Biblical Christian teachings on marriage and sexuality.
4. They draw attention away from actual practitioners of dangerous hate, like jihadists.
5. The SPLC and its ilk are crying wolf, and making us all less safe.

The Commentary:

The old fairy tales we grew up with often contained much truth. We remember the story of the little boy who cried wolf—a great reminder that repeatedly raising false alarms eventually instills apathy.

A few months ago, a news report appeared about a Texas woman who called 9-1-1 from the McDonalds drive-through because she felt they were taking too long to produce her beloved McNuggets. While these stories make us chuckle, the people involved are often prosecuted because the false calls detract attention and resources from real emergencies. In West Virginia a woman is facing multiple charges after making hundreds of false calls to 9-1-1 because of the danger such actions pose to the community.

Something quite similar is happening these days when it comes to charges of “hatred.” The Southern Poverty Law Center, once respected for their activities against genuinely hateful groups like the KKK, are now falsely designating mainstream evangelical Christian ministries as “hate groups” simply for holding to the historic, Biblical Christian teachings on marriage and sexuality. Those who do not share the SPLC’s far Left views on same-sex weddings and transgender issues are falsely labeled as dangerous haters. This, of course, poses two threats.

First, it dilutes the word hate. Hate truly does exist, and Christ has called us to stand against it. But when we label those who merely disagree with us as haters, the word is watered down and ceases to have meaning or power.

And second, like disaffected Happy Meal customers calling 9-1-1, these false claims of hate defer necessary concern and resources away from actual practitioners of dangerous hate—from Islamic jihadists to violent nationalist groups.

The SPLC and its ilk are crying wolf. And we are all less safe when the media and law enforcement are duped by them into thinking that those holding a Biblical view of marriage—the same view held by Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton just a few short years ago—are somehow dangerous to society.