

A Baby By Any Other Name Is Still A Baby
By Matthew Ginnaty

William Shakespeare penned in his play Romeo and Juliet “What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet...”. This was meant in the play to say Romeo being a Montague and Juliet being a Capulet shouldn't mean that they shouldn't be together. The names are just titles and their love is what matters. But words and language do have meaning and power.

Throughout history people have changed personal names, or the name of an object or product to signify a significant event, better describe the item, or better market the product. In the Bible God changed significant people's names to show a change in their role in salvation history. Popes take on a new name when they take the seat of Peter. Companies have changed the name of products to make them more marketable. The Anti-Abortion movement of the 1970s changed to the Pro-Life movement. All these examples show the significance of names and language.

Science has shown at the moment the sperm enters the egg we are conceived, and with today's technology we can display a 3D image of a baby in the womb (baby's first photo), yet we still use the outdated language when we talk about a baby in the womb. Parents say things like, “we are going to have a baby,” when the baby is already theirs in the womb. We still look at the birth of a child like it is the creation of the child, rather than another milestone in a child's development like his or her first step or word. Isn't it time to change our language to show the reality; a baby is a baby from the moment of conception? Parents trying to conceive should be saying, we are going to be parents, and after conception, we are parents.

It is popular to have gender reveal parties; why not have naming celebrations. Now instead of parents saying, our baby is due in May, they say, Joe will be born in May.

We change the language used, and we change how the world looks at the unborn. No longer will the baby be a baby in the future, but a baby now. No longer should a baby receive his or her name at birth but at conception (or the time of the first ultrasound to show the gender). What if instead of celebrating our birthday, we celebrate our conception day? Now birth is another of all the other milestones in a person's maturity like first word, first step, and graduation to be noted as an event in a person's life.

Language has the power to change perceptions and show significant changes in a person's life. Change in language can also change how we see a cause, product, person, or creature's status. By changing how we refer to unborn human beings we can change how they are treated.

So, let's change how the world refer to those human beings in the womb. Let's name them as soon as possible; revealing not just their gender but also their names. Let's stop using the out of date language like, “I'm going to be a father” to the modern “I'm Joe's dad” from conception.

