

## THE CRIMINALIZATION OF CHRISTIANITY

One religion serves a false God (Allah), who sends his adherents out with the message to accept this religion or die. Nineteen of those adherents hijacked airplanes and flew them into the Pentagon, and into the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center, killing over 3000 American citizens. Another religion serves a God who took on flesh came to the earth and died for the sins of mankind, that men might come unto Him and have salvation. It seems like a no brainer question to ask: "Which of those two religions faces the greatest possibility of being criminalized and finally outlawed, not only in New York, but all across the United States?" Reason says it has to be the first one, right? As former college football coach turned analyst, Lee Corso, is famous for saying, "Not so fast!"

For almost three decades now, those who believe in Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world, have been called names like Nazis, bigots, extremists, and hate mongers. They have been ridiculed and had lawsuits brought against them in attempts to shut their mouths from speaking the hateful message that Jesus came to die on the cross for the sins of humanity (John 3:16; 1 John 2:2). Through "hate crimes" legislation, the enemies of Christianity have made strides toward having this "hateful" religion made illegal.

While all of the attacks have been going on against the religion of Christ, the adherents of the other religion have continued to kill people all over the world. They behead folks, blow them up with explosives, and even run their own children over with the family car, if they perceive they have become too Westernized. Most recently, of course, one of them serving in the military turned against fellow soldiers, shooting up the largest military installation in the world, killing more than a dozen and wounding over thirty. At the same time, public schools all across the nation force students to dress up and act out the religious practices of this religion, while media and government officials caution the folks against jumping to conclusions about a killer who before he started gunning down innocent people shouted out, "*Allahu Akbar*," meaning, "God is great."

Do you shake your head in amazement and confusion why a religion whose battle cry from its very beginning has been, "Islam or the sword," is viewed as one of the world's great religions, while Christianity, the true religion of peace, and established by the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6; Eph. 2:15), faces criminalization? It doesn't help very much when the world's most prolific distributor of disinformation, Al Gore, compared George W. Bush's belief in Christianity with fundamentalist Islam. It is not really all that difficult to understand why Christianity is under attack if you know one thing; an increasing number of people, 64% of adults and 83% of teenagers now believe that moral truth is relative. Combine that with the fact that more and more people now disbelieve that there will be a judgment and life beyond the grave, and the reality is that people would rather be killed than to be told it is sinful for them to fulfill their lewd lusts of the flesh.

Who is it that is leading the attacks against the Christian religion? There are two groups; the pro-abortion and pro-homosexual crowds. Both of these groups march under the banner of moral subjectivity announcing, "It is my body and no one can tell me what to

do with it." One would think somebody is holding a gun up to these people's heads and telling them, "If you do not turn from your sins I am going to pull the trigger." No one is doing that, or even threatening to do it. That is, unless one realizes that the number of Islamic mosques in this country preaching a message of hate and murder are on the increase, and may in a few years turn lose their disciples on this country with improvised explosive devices (also known as roadside bombs or IED's) and homemade bombs strapped upon their waists.

But the radical Islamic threat means little to sinners. They can die physically today, tomorrow, or next year. It really makes little difference to them, so long as no one interferes with their world view of, "You only go around once in this life, so grab all of the gusto you can!" No, the threat is from those "radical Christians" preaching the hateful message that, "You can avoid eternal punishment in hell if you will obey the Gospel of Christ" (1 Cor. 6:9-11; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 21:8).

Moral truth, like religious truth, is absolute. There will come a day of reckoning before the creator of all the earth. God has appointed a day in which He will judge the world through Christ (Acts 17:31). On that day, every one of us will receive judgment according to the things done in this body, whether they are good or bad (2 Cor. 5:10). Both the Old Testament (Lev. 18:22; 20:13) and the New Testament (Rom. 1:26,27; 1 Cor. 6:9), teach that homosexuality is sin against that moral truth. Over and over, the Bible condemns murder, including the phrase, "shed innocent blood" (Prov. 6:17). It has been said over and over again, but it will never be a trite phrase, there is no more innocent blood than that of the unborn. Every pro-choice legislator ought to be compelled to watch a partial birth abortion procedure.

Belief in the Christian religion was present and foundational at the beginning of this nation. Even those who purport to be followers of Christ, but are not because their doctrine is wrong, have nevertheless always proclaimed the reality that the Bible condemns sin. The founding fathers loathed homosexuality, and the Declaration of Independence says people are created, not born, equal. If the word "created" doesn't defend the unborn, I don't know what would. Christianity is under attack, because truth is absolute. It matters not how many of our people reject it because of that; our responsibility does not change. We preach Christ and Him crucified (1 Cor. 1:23).

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