



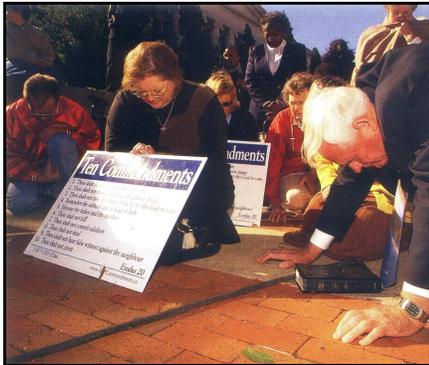
Should Christians Take a Stand Against World Evil?

JUNE 11, 2010

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In 2003, Alabama's state supreme court Chief Justice Roy Moore was tossed out of office for his refusal to remove the Ten Commandments (*made of 5,280 lbs of granite*) from his courthouse. 3 out of 4 Alabamans supported him.



Throughout history, there have been news reports of Christians taking a stand against homosexuality, birth control, abortion, pornography, wars, and many other things.

THE DA VINCI CODE
A NOVEL
LARGE PRINT
DAN BROWN
BY LAURIE GOODSTEIN
NEW YORK TIMES

Churches battle novel's theories
4-28-2004
Books, lectures aim to crack 'Da Vinci Code'

When the Da Vinci Code surfaced in books and theaters, Christians felt compelled to challenge its theories.



Christian's opposition against Abortion.

The struggle between Christians and pro-abortionist has resulted in the murder of doctors who performed abortions.

In August of 1997, an estimated 500 Christian children and adults marched in

Young and old march against death penalty



Opposing executions: An estimated 500 children and adults march through Hopwood, Pa., on the first day of a three-day, 30-mile 'Children's Crusade to Death Row.' The anti-execution march was organized by the Bruderhof, a pacifist Christian sect in Pennsylvania, New York and New England. The protest will culminate with a protest outside the state prison near Waynesburg.

Hopwood, Pa, protesting against the Death Penalty.

In 2002, Protestant Christians and Catholic Christians battled it out in Belfast, Northern Ireland, smashing car doors and windows, leaving 48 police officers and civilians injured.

BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND Rioters smash vehicles

Protestant rioters smashed car doors and windshields Thursday at a Catholic school, a day after religious clashes at another school left 48 police officers and civilians injured.

Seventeen cars were damaged at Our Lady of Mercy School.

The school is near Holy Cross School, which has been at the center of bitter sectarian clashes and was the scene of riots Wednesday.

In 2006, Christians, angered by the executions of three Catholic militants, set fire to a police station and hurled rocks at a helicopter carrying a police chief.

GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP Christians riot to protest killing of militant

Christians angered by last week's executions of three Catholic militants set fire to a police station Friday and hurled rocks at a helicopter carrying a police chief, the government news agency Antara reported.

No injuries were reported in the violence that erupted in Taripa on the island of Sulawesi.

The report said the crowd was angry about the Sept. 22 executions of three Christians convicted of leading attacks on Muslims in 2000. At least 70 people were killed in the attack.

More than 1,000 people of both faiths died in four years of sectarian fighting on Sulawesi that ended in 2002.

The three Christian militants were executed September 22, 2006 for leading attacks on Muslims in 2002 that resulted in the deaths of at least 70 people.

The word **CHRISTIAN** means "a follower of Christ..." and is found only three times in scripture, "the disciples were called Christians **FIRST** in Antioch" (Acts 11:26).

But today, the definition has been redefined to mean those who professing belief in Jesus as Christ or following the religion based on the life and teaching of Jesus.

But the original definition of Christian is still correct. Jesus said, "...Whosoever will come after me, let him **DENY HIMSELF, and take up his cross, and FOLLOW ME [TO BE IN THE SAME WAY WITH]**" (MARK 8:34).

Denying SELF is the most difficult achievement man can make, because it doesn't come naturally. From birth, we all seek our own needs. Only through instruction and discipline do we learn to the needs of others.

Jesus said, "If any man **SERVE ME, let him FOLLOW ME**" (JOHN 12:26). When Jesus was arrested in the garden, he could have defeated all the men that came for him, but he told Peter, "...Put up thy sword into the sheath" (JOHN 18:11).

Jesus did not come to defeat world evil and wickedness, he came to strip Satan's power over death and Hell, and to make an atonement for all our sins through his death, and his resurrection from the dead, bringing us victory.

If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, then you must ask yourself: how would Jesus have responded to the Da Vinci Code, abortionists, the death penalty or pornography?

If these protesters are **NOT true Christians**, then who are they? How is it possible that these religious movements can be wrong?

Jesus said, "Not **EVERY ONE** that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, **SHALL ENTER** into the kingdom of heaven; but he that **DOETH THE WILL** of my Father which is in heaven" (MATTHEW 7:21).



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Take Heed that NO MAN...

When the disciples asked Jesus when he should return, he said **"TAKE HEED [THAT IS, LOOK TO YOURSELVES; BEWARE] that NO MAN [MALE OR FEMALE] deceive YOU [TO CAUSE TO ROAM FROM TRUTH]"** (MATT. 24:4). This is **TOP PRIORITY** for the believer: **TAKE HEED!**

Not everyone that *calls* himself a "Christian" is a Christian, for Jesus said, **"MANY will say to me in that day, LORD, LORD, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works"** (MATT. 7:22)?

Jesus will profess to these "Christians," **"...I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity"** (MATT. 7:23).

The Sheep & the Goats

SHEEP are *totally dependent* on the Good Shepherd. **GOATS** are *independent*, period. **SHEEP** are *easily frightened, will not drink from running waters*, and have *no sense of direction*. **GOATS** will *eat anything, cannot be fenced in*, and *need no shepherd*.

In this world, there are **TWO** kinds of *Christians*: those who *follow the Son of God*, and those who are *"...tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive"* (EPHES. 4:14).

The parable of the *wheat and tares* distinguishes these **TWO** kinds of Christians as the *children of God* and the *children of the wicked one*.

True Christians, identified as the *"wheat"* sow *"good seed"* which is the *pure* Word of God. *False Christians*, identified as *"tares"* [A WEED THAT CLOSELY RESEMBLES WHEAT WHICH TAKES AN EXPERT TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE] sow *"false doctrine"* which is religion.

In this parable, the servants ask, **"...Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. LET BOTH GROW TOGETHER"**



No matter how cute, a goat is still a GOAT!

UNTIL THE HARVEST" (MATTHEW 13:28-30). Today, we still have *the wheat and tares* mingling together.

We are NOT of this World

Jesus said to Pilate, **"...My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants FIGHT..."** (JOHN 18:33-36), but our Lord *directs* our **FIGHT**.

True Christians *follow* the Shepherd in *all things*. Jesus **"...is despised and rejected of men"** (ISAIAH 53:3). So are **WE**. **"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet HE OPENED NOT HIS MOUTH: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he OPENETH NOT HIS MOUTH"** (ISAIAH 53:7).

Jesus said to his disciples, and to you and me, **"If the world hate you, ye KNOW that it hated me BEFORE it hated you. IF ye were of the world, the world would LOVE his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world HATETH YOU"** (JOHN 15:18-19).

The Weapons of Our Warfare

Although all believers walk in the flesh, we **"...do not WAR after the flesh: for the weapons of our warfare ARE NOT CARNAL"** (2 COR. 10:3-4). Jesus did not come into the world to change the world, but to *save them* that are **LOST**.

The *rules* for the soldier of Jesus Christ are written plainly: **"NO MAN [MALE OR FEMALE] that WARRETH [TO SERVE IN A MILITARY CAMPAIGN] ENTANGLETH HIMSELF [TO INVOLVE HIMSELF WITH] with the AFFAIRS [OR TRANSACTIONS] of this life; that he may**

PLEASE him who hath **CHOSEN** him to be a soldier. And **IF** a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, **EXCEPT** he strive lawfully" (2 TIM. 2:4-5).

Followers of Jesus Christ

TRUE believers **"...Put on the whole armour of God, that [HE] may be able to stand against the wiles of the DEVIL,"** not **MAN**. **TRUE** believers **KNOW** that **"...we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places"** (EPH. 6:10-17).

GOATS know nothing about *following* Jesus Christ, because it is *against their nature* to follow any one. True Christians understand that **"...the servant of the Lord MUST NOT STRIVE; but be GENTLE unto ALL MEN"** (2 TIM. 2:24).

Every born again child of God knows that the Word of God is **"...FIRST pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy"** (JAMES 3:17).

Should Christians take a stand?

Absolutely **NOT**, **"for we WRESTLE NOT against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places"** (EPHES. 6:12).

The *believers* battle is a *spiritual* battle. We are *called to fight* **"the GOOD fight of FAITH"** as our Lord would fight it.

Jesus said **"My sheep HEAR my voice, and I know them, and they FOLLOW me"** **"...and a STRANGER will they NOT FOLLOW, but will FLEE from him: for they KNOW NOT the VOICE of strangers"** (JOHN 10:27, 5). Follow *after* Christ.

Dear Readers, if you *believe* in taking a *fleshy* stand *against the world*, you had better **"EXAMINE YOURSELVES, whether ye be IN the FAITH"** (2 COR. 13:5); **"...GIVE DILIGENCE to make your calling and election SURE: for IF ye do these things, ye shall NEVER fall"** (2 PETER 1:10).