

Fear in the Christian in the modern America or... How are we to live in an Anti-Christian society?

Fear does a lot of things to Christians,
and so often there is nothing they should fear!

Let us take what is going on in America right now; if a Christian bakery or flower shop is asked to serve queers or Muslims, that is no place to make your stand. JESUS CHRIST is not the issue, and is not Glorified. Having said that, I do believe the time is soon with us that Christians will be persecuted for our individual beliefs; Freedom in this country is a thing of the past, we have NO freedom of speech or of opinion. Anything that hints at being moral or pro-capitalism or pro-Christian is going to get you into a lot of trouble in this country. Christians will be the enemy, Christians will be the trouble makers.

God knows this is going to happen throughout history and there are many verses that speak of fear in a believer.

Isaiah 51:7

⁷ *Listen to Me*, (this is where courage starts,
listening to the Word of God... listen so as to believe)
you who know righteousness, (both imputed-
Righteousness and living in Righteousness).

A people in whose heart is My law; (faith and love) *Do not fear the reproach of man,* (**reproach** is exactly what is increasing throughout the world, not just here in America—); this word means to be scorned or taunting –bullying – such that our children are receiving – and by society;

If you are not for Queers then you are made a reproach, you are called names... and the ones I love are the ones that try to twist with the Bible and Christianity are about—“*you are not a loving person, I thought all Christians were supposed to be loving,*” yes we are but we are to hate that which is evil; or “*you are just a bible thumping Christian*”. Yes I am. Thank you for recognizing this fact if you are not for all the perversions and immorality that the world not only condones but makes you accept them or suffer.

Do not fear the reproach of man,! (please do not question your biblical stand, as though you may be wrong...don't let them do that to you!)

Nor be dismayed at their revilings.

at their revilings (you know what this means?)

Many Christians are suffering from this even now...it means to insult you, to scorn who you are and what you believe. The early problem with this is that at first, without thinking it through, in attacking you, they attack the Bible, God, JESUS CHRIST and that hurts...do not allow it to hurt you, to cause you to be dismayed. That is exactly what the adversary is trying to do...get you to rethink your position in Christ.

You know what the word **Christian** means?

It did not come about as a complement, it was first used in Antioch and was meant as a ridicule—to intimidate believers: it means **little Christ** meaning you cannot think for yourself, you just follow Jesus Christ. And to people who are proud, it would cause them to back off!

It is amazing how many people today, don't mind being called a follower of some man rather than *just a Christian*.

Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.

(By the Lord, not by man One that I love)

Ezekiel 2:6

“And you, son of man, neither fear them nor fear their words, though thistles and thorns are with you and you sit on scorpions; neither fear their words nor be dismayed at their presence, for they are a rebellious house.”

One of the most untrue ‘sayings’ we had as children:

“sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me.” This is so untrue, we can do great damage with our tongues—bullying; but in a world where wrong is right and right is wrong, names penetrate our souls and our thinking.

But, people, please know your God. He knows when words are lashed out against Christians for their Christian stand and He encourages us not to be in fear of their words; **do not be *dismayed*** at your standing on principles from the Word of God. He tells us **TWICE** in this one verse DO NOT fear their words...

Why does He repeat this exhortation?

Because he knows our souls, that it hurts when harsh, untrue words are cast against us.

“You bigot, You Christian bigot”... trying to use name-calling to get you to back off your sound way of thinking and living. Not only are we not to fear them or their words but God says do not be **dismayed** at their presence or of their words...do not allow them to get into your soul and get you out of the peace of Fruit of the Holy Spirit; please think... think... where are they?

They are rebellious against God’s plan an design.

On the encouragement side:

Proverbs 29:25

25 The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.

You want a trap for your Spiritual life? A snare or trap to take away the peace that comes from the Holy Spirit?

**Then fear man,
fear others,
fear those who speak out against you**
But he who trust in the Lord will be exalted
(by God, not by man and most likely not in this life!)

Psalms 118:6

*The LORD is for me; I will not fear;
What can man do to me?*

Well, he can hurt you physically, he can take away your house, he can place you in prison, he can even take your life...but what is that—you will be face to face with the Lord. And these earthly things will pass away!!

Now for a verse that puts this all together

1 Peter 4:16

¹⁶ but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.

One of the most remarkable things in history of the Church AGE is the protection Christians and Jews have experienced in America.

A study of *secular* history reveals that for the last 2000 years, those nations, societies that have favored Jews and Christianity have prospered while those anti-Semitic and/or anti-Christianity have soon fallen.

Christians and Jews since the formation of this great nation have enjoyed a protective environment, but now as America becomes more hostile to Christianity—seeing it as the enemy to its immorality and perversion and more Anti-Semitic—with election twice of a pro-Muslim-anti-Jewish State; anti-Christian President—it is no surprise that both Christian and Jew are beginning to suffer in America, for just simply living according to the bible.—**suffer first by name calling, then by law**...but please do not show your ignorance of World history... of what has been going on around the world in regards to anti-Semitism – anti-Christianity and the sufferings of both Jews and Christians.

It has been said by Dr. Kevin Clarkson that ***“there are more martyrs for Christ in the twentieth century than in the previous nineteen centuries combined”***. He goes on to say ***“Christians in America have lived so comfortably with the First Amendment guarantee of religious liberty , which is unique in the annals of human history.”***

But, people, America is catching up with history in it’s being against the Christian with his Moral standards and with its proclamation of a Gospel that guarantees Eternal Life to those who believe in JESUS CHRIST and Eternal damnation to those who do not.

But I take great issue with Bill O'Reilly in comparing this to what the Muslims do in killing all those who do not believe in Allah;

Christians are commanded to love their enemies as well as to love One Another; **IT WILL BE GOD** not man, not Christians who will physically deliver non-believers into the lake of fire....

But America had enjoyed great freedom and because of this they have prospered economically far surpassing any Muslim nation in history. But we have been moving for several decades to the point where we have a President who sets policies against America and for Muslim rule in the world. He does not see the value in our Constitution; in fact he has in his books spoken against our Constitution... our...not his....

So, people, learn from these passages, live in the Word of God. Go to a church where the Word of God is taught verse-by-verse to you, to your children, for it is no longer focusing on a document written by man—our Constitution, but it is the Word of God that will guide them and us, and give us peace and confidence in the future.

I remind you again of the words by a great man of history, John Adams—*(I find it so depressing that we do not have a national holiday for any of our great founding fathers but we do for an immoral adulterous man...Martin Luther King)*

but John Adams said: **our constitution was made only for a moral and religious (Christian) people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other” .**

He did not make this statement in church, he did not make it to fundamentally a Christian group, he made this proclamation to the Officers of the First Brigade of the third Division of Militia of Massachusetts on October 11, 1798.

So Christian garrison your souls in the Word of God; care not what man thinks but live your life and raise your children in the truths of the Word of God.

I know we are studying the Burial of JESUS CHRIST but due to what is going on in America today and realizing the things that Christians are suffering and going to suffer, I want to give you some sound advice from the Word of God:

What are we supposed to do, when bullied, verbally attacked by others, even by other Christians? And oh, people, do not be shocked or dismayed when you are attacked by other Christians. I want to remind you what we studied will happen to believing Jews in The Tribulation:

Matthew 24:10

“At that time (context—in The Tribulation) many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.

They will hate and betray One Another; both times One Another is used, it is the same Greek word **allos** and means One Another of the same kind, that is, “Jews will betray Jews”, and “Jews will hate Jews”.

But, people, make no mistake about this, as things continue to get more and more tense in the world we live, here in the United States of America, Christians are going to **hate** other Christians and Christians are going to **betray** other Christians.

Also, in Matthew 24:12—we are told that

¹² *love grows cold.*

Ok, think about it, this is tough but I want you to be prepared—who loves you now or did?

Family members, close friends...your children, your parents, your brothers, sisters cousins, etc....

Ok, whose **love will grow cold**?

Those closest to you—this is why this **hurts so much, and so deeply**. If it was someone we hardly knew, someone spying on us...we might be angry but not hurt, not dismayed. But when we are attacked, bullied, called names related to our Lord, to JESUS CHRIST...**this hurts** and we might become dismayed.

So, what are we to do?

We know we are not to attack, we are not to name call, we are not to bully, but...

What are we supposed to do when we are the ones attacked?

What does the Word of God tell us to do?

I want to highlight three guiding principles then work our way through this great chapter of the bible on living the Christian life in difficult times;

(1) Romans 12:21

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good

don't let all that is going on, now in America, overcome you; the problem here is How, How do you do both of these? How do you not be overcome by evil? And how do you overcome evil with good?

(2) Romans 12:

Never take your own revenge

(3) Romans 12:18

If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

Sometimes they will not let it lie, they push!

These are but three exhortations, 3 guides for the Christian in today's world...but let us read through this great chapter of the Bible.

Romans 12:1

¹ *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*

**I hope you can see right off
what Satan is doing
in America today.**

He is attacking **the human body!**

He has been attacking **the human body** through promiscuity, adultery, alcohol, drugs, etc.

But today he is doing it through **perversion** of the divine design of **the human body.**

To understand what in the world is going on in the world, Especially here in America, let us look at Romans chapter 1.

24 *Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.*

(This is exactly what is going on in USA)

25 *For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever.*

Amen. (Today they worship the earth)

26 *For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged*

(the natural function) *for that which is unnatural,*

(what is opposed to nature, their bodies were designed for males, not for females.)

27 *and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another,*

(homosexuality) *men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.*

28 *And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over (over and over, this is what God does when people turn against Him) to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,*

29 *being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips,*

30 *slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,*

31 *without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;*

(This is where America is today!)

32 *and although they know the ordinance of God,* (make no doubt about it, they know it—this is why they want everyone to say they are alright! Because they know they are not) *that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.* (Judicial system in America).