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We Must Fight and Guard Our Rights

by
Tom Holbrook

Merry Christmas everyone! Tomorrow is the big day and once again we can safely and freely acknowledge the birth of Jesus Christ publicly. Who would have thought, as you were growing up, that there would come a time when our right to publicly discuss Christ's birth or teachings would be an illegal act in this greatest of all Christian nations, the United States of America? We could understand it if this were an Islamic nation who refuses their people the right to do anything except to follow the dictum their Imams lay down. But the United States of America, a country of 200+ million people, 80% of which claim to be Christians, are being forced ever so cleverly to give up our religious freedoms by groups who represent less than 5% of our population. Their influence in our federal court system and legislative branches, cultivated and properly nurtured over the last 40 years has nearly stripped the Christian citizen of the right to publicly express his or her tradition and heritage. We have become so politically correct that every religion imaginable has more clout in this country than the one which founded it. Does everyone admit this or even recognize that there is a bias against Christianity? No, unfortunately. Besides those who are actually choreographing the entire agenda to remove God and Jesus Christ from the public venue, many Christians have their Pollyanna, rose colored glasses on their heads which are stuck in a sand hill, others just couldn't see the forest for all the trees, and still others are living in total denial.

Even our Jewish brothers and sisters, a group that has been attacked endlessly and killed by the millions are amazed at how fast our country's Christian ideals are being stripped from our society and trampled underfoot. Many Jews have stated that Christians are their greatest friends and it is because of our association with them that we are being discriminated against by the secular and Middle Eastern religious circles. Jews, who represent probably less than 2% of our population, cannot believe that the United States has historically allowed them the right to express their beliefs so openly, and now we are being told we cannot enjoy the same freedom for our own founding beliefs. Jackie Mason, a famous Jewish comedian, stated so succinctly, ***“Not being able to wish someone Merry Christmas is like going to a birthday party and singing happy birthday to a person whose name you can't mention. Ridiculous!”***

The old adage, “The squeaky wheel gets the most grease,” certainly holds true in what's been happening over the last few decades. Christians, because of our normal trusting nature as a rule, are a very quiet, easily manipulated, easily trampled bunch of people... taken advantage of by about anything or anyone coming down the pike. We are usually the last to realize that someone has stolen our shirt, shoes, hat, wallet or walking cane and we, more often than not, must have some cataclysmic tragedy befall us before we can believe there are people out there who don't like us and are trying to hurt us.

Even then we usually want to pray about it, then talk about it in a subdued voice, and then pray once more before we decide that God has said its okay to get physical and loud.

Many factions who worship other so called gods are boisterous, violent, and demanding of their “rights” to do, say, and act in any manner they choose. Do we or the powers that be deny them their request of preferential treatment or admonish them to get in line with the rest of us and wait their turn? Why, of course not. Instead, our leaders in positions of authority and decision making demand that the docile ones, (that would be you and me,) allow the vocal, rude and belligerent ones to move ahead of us in the line. If we complain we are being intolerant. If we refuse then we are reprimanded or punished, usually by telling us to get out of the line altogether.

A good example of this was just reported from Denmark... a country who is known for its fairly liberal stance on most things. A Danish author was set to publish a book on the Muslim prophet Muhammad and needed an illustrator to depict a likeness. Since the Islamic religion prohibits the capturing of likenesses on film or painting, several artists refused to take the job out of fear for their lives. One newspaper cartoonist/illustrator and his associates finally agreed and drew several caricatures of Muhammad, some of which alluded to the violence committed today by Muslims in the name of Islam.

Security guards had to be hired for the newspaper staff because of immediate death threats that came in by phone. Not idle threats I might add since a neighboring Dutch filmmaker was murdered last year for being critical of the Islamic religion. Thus far the newspaper, the Danish Prime Minister, nor other high Danish officials have caved in to the pressure from the Muslim world to denounce the caricatures and withdraw them from public viewing. The Danes are asserting they are a democracy and therefore have freedom of speech and expression which they will not relinquish to any group or religion. Even after several thousand Muslims marched in demonstrations against the cartoons, and demanded an apology for smearing the Islamic faith, they held fast, although two of the cartoonists have gone into hiding.

It’s not only the Muslims who are demanding that Christianity give up its traditions and ideals, however. Individuals, atheistic organizations, and the ACLU are making life hard on all who believe in Jesus Christ as well.

The Editor-in-chief of the Dutch newspaper mentioned above, *Jyllands-Posten*, answered those who demanded apologies and threatened death with these very appropriate words, ***“We must quietly point out here that the drawings illustrated an article on the self-censorship which rules large parts of the Western world. Our right to say, write, photograph and draw what we want within the framework of the law exists and must endure --- unconditionally! If we apologize, we go against the freedom of speech that generations before us have struggled to win.”***

If only our newspapers and lawmakers were so enamored and protective of our hard earned Christian rights and privileges! **Merry Christmas everyone!!!**