

# The Religion of 'I'm OK, You're OK'

**W**e live in an age of ecumenism in which everyone tries to find moral and religious equivalence between the one true religion of New Testament Christianity and flawed systems of belief. It reminds me of the title of a pop-psychology book of a few years ago, I'm OK, You're OK.

Using this flawed philosophy, some today ascertain that "one church is as good as another," or "one religion is as good as another, since they all lead to God." This religious nonsense has led many, concerned by the war on Southwest Asia, to exclaim that "Islam believes in the same God as Christianity does."

Yet, almost 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ laid this argument to rest in his conversation with the Samaritan woman recorded in John 4. To this thirsty woman, Jesus offered "living water." He then caused her to recognize that she was living in sin. She tried to change the conversation to a religious one, but the Master quickly corrected her misconceptions regarding religion and God.

Jesus was no relativist. "Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews." (John 4:22). In other words, at the moment Jesus spoke, the Samaritan religion was incorrect and inferior to Judaism.

Today's modern ecumenist would notice the many similarities between the Samaritan religion and Judaism:

- 1) Both claimed to worship one God—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- 2) Both revered the first five books of the Bible, the Pentateuch.
- 3) Both worshipped God, using animal sacrifice.
- 4) Both looked forward to the coming Messiah.

But Modern ecumenists only look at the surface, and not the problems in the religion of Samaria. Notice the differences:

- 1) The Samaritans did not accept the entire Old Testament, as did most of the Jews.
- 2) The Samaritans' concept of God was corrupted by Paganism.
- 3) The Samaritans worshipped God in the wrong place, and not according to God's word ("the truth" John 17:17).
- 4) Salvation (the Messiah) was of the Jews, not the Samaritans.

Today, the Law of Moses, or the Old Covenant, has been done away (Col. 2:14-17). Now, the New Testament, or Covenant of Jesus Christ is God's standard for judging religion. And New Testament Christianity is far superior to Judaism, Islam, Mormonism, Buddhism, and certainly any form of pseudo-Christianity known as denominationalism. It is "the way" (Acts 24:14; Prov. 14:12) and the only way to God (John 14:6).

New Testament Christianity is vastly superior to Judaism, Islam, or any other religion, in the following ways:

- 1) It worships the one true God of the Bible—not Allah.
- 2) It accepts the completed revelation of God—the Bible.
- 3) It proclaims Jesus as the Son of God, the Christ—not Mohammed.
- 4) It preaches forgiveness of sins and removal of guilt by the blood of Christ.
- 5) It preaches justification by faith—not by works of merit.
- 6) It worships God "in spirit and truth." (John 4:24).

The idea that all religions are equal with Christianity is foreign to the Gospel of Christ. There is no such thing "another gospel" (Gal. 1:6-7) or another way to God and salvation. Christianity is a "narrow way" and a "strait" or confining gate which leads to everlasting life. (Matt. 7:13-14). To delude oneself into the pollyannaish idea that God is some affectionate grandfather figure who accepts anyone and everyone—even those who are in rebellion to Him—is heresy.

Does this mean that we are to take up arms against "the infidel?" No! Our fight is against the devil and his hell-bound kingdom (Eph. 6:12). We are to love our enemies and do good. (Matt. 5:44).

Yet, neither are we to be spiritual pacifists. We must "earnestly contend for the faith" (Jude 3) in the marketplace of ideas. We must strive to bring those to freedom who are bound to false religion and philosophies. They are the lost offspring of God (Acts 17:28-29) and deserve our concern. They deserve the light of Christ, rather than the darkness of ignorance (Acts 26:18). May God bless us in our quest!

Roelf L. Ruffner  
Odessa, TX

## **BELVEDERE BEACON**

*"Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)*

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### **IT'S A STRANGE WORLD!**

I am sure that the above article title is absolutely true! Doubt it? Then read the AP wire story under the headline, Jail Sentence for Killing Wife's Pets, that was dated Friday, April 14, 2000. WEST BEND, Wis. (AP) - A man who killed eight of his wife's pets to punish her for having an abortion was sentenced to seven months in jail. Leonard J. Kritz, 22, stabbed or cut the heads off

his wife's pets - including birds, snakes and a chinchilla - in April 1999, saying it was necessary to teach her a lesson about the importance of life. He pleaded no contest to reduced charges of three misdemeanor counts of cruelty to animals. Washington County Circuit Judge Leo Schlaefer said Thursday he was not sure the defendant's actions were in response to the abortion. "Regardless of the philosophical or religious position one takes on abortion, there's absolutely no reason to be violent," Schlaefer said. .... Kritz, who called the killings a mistake, is scheduled to begin his sentence June 12, after the birth of a child the couple is now expecting.

Before anyone gets the wrong idea let me say upfront that I am in no way advocating the senseless slaughter and torturing of animals. No one should deliberately try to torment any of God's creatures for sport or to prove a point. But there are some questions that beg to be asked here.

Where is the doctor who performed the abortion? Was he dragged before the bar of justice for tormenting a human life? Was he given a jail sentence for "getting violent?" We all know the answer. He/She was likely working that day, grinding out more murder, pocketing more blood money, enjoy the good life at the expense of unborn babies, euphemistically called "fetuses." He/She is a respected part of the community.

Where were the owners of the abortion clinic where Mrs Kritz had her abortion? Were they before the bar of justice, answering for their blood stained hands? Were they answering for participating in genocide, every bit as horrible as the Nazi genocide of the 30's and 40's? We all know the answer. They were collecting thousands from women like Mrs. Kritz, who had been deluded into believing the lie that the child she was carrying was just a piece of tissue which she was free to cut loose instead of a human life.

What about the judge in this case? He likened Mrs. Kritz' abortion to a "philosophical or religious position" and turned around and put Mr. Kritz in jail for seven months. Who stood as an advocate before justice for the unborn child? Why would a judge equate murder to a philosophical or religious position? Strange indeed!

Seven months in jail for killing birds and snakes and honors and money for those responsible for the killing of unborn children! A strange world indeed! What is wrong with our country? It is later than we think when people are sent to jail for killing snakes and rewarded for killing babies. We, both individually and as a nation, need to repent of our sins and turn back to God. "So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm." (Joel 2:13).

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#### **SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

<b>SUNDAY:</b>		<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	
Bible Classes for all ages	10.00 am.	Bible Classes for all ages	7.00 p.m.
Morning Worship	11.00 am.		
Evening Worship	6.00 p.m.		

EVANGELIST: Ken Chumbley - Tel. No. (803) -279-8663

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## A LITTLE TREASURE

In the latest issue of Junior Scholastic, a magazine distributed in Junior High and Middle Schools, Volume 109 No. 6 dated October 30, 2006, an article appeared under the above title. A sub title is included that states, “The skeleton of the world’s oldest child is found.”

The first paragraph of the article states, “Researchers call her Selam or “peace.” The skull and skeletal remains of the 3-year old were found in an area of Ethiopia called Dikika. The oldest child ever found. Selam is thought to have drowned in a flash flood 3.3 million years ago.” Right at the outset of the article we see the “spin” being put on this find by many in the scientific community and also being thrust into the minds of our young people to have them believe that human beings have been around for over three million years. The tragedy of this is that many of these youngsters will accept such without question, which is what many want them to do because no scientist can prove, through accepted scientific procedures, that such is factual. Indeed, there are numerous scientific facts that are available that would, if acknowledged would, at least cast doubt, of the accuracy of such concepts as human beings having been around for millions of years.

Once the writer of the article has “set the scene” he then states in the third paragraph of the article, “The find is important because it allows scientists to study the nearly complete remains of an ancient ancestor of humans for the first time.” “An ancient ancestor of humans.” If it is an “ancient ancestor of humans,” it is NOT human! The seventh brief paragraph of the article states, “Experts believe that Selam belonged to a prehistoric human species that had features similar to those of an ape. The species, known as *Australopithecus afarensis*, has legs and could walk upright, but its shoulder blades and neck were like those of a young gorilla. The next, and final paragraph, states, “Selam’s fossil also revealed curved fingers, which means that her species may have climbed trees.” This description sounds more like an ape or gorilla but some are so enamored with the theory of organic evolution that they have to make this fossil an “ancient ancestor of humans” and a “prehistoric human species” even though the evidence that can be clearly seen does not indicate a human but an ape or gorilla.

Brethren, we MUST, for the sake of our children, stay on top of this and teach them the truth regarding human origins. Granted that one can no more scientifically prove fiat creation by God than organic evolution and a timetable of millions or billions of years of earth’s history or human history. However, it can be clearly shown by factual scientific information that is available that the concept of creation, as taught in the Bible, is more feasible that the theory of evolution that many scientists hold as “fact.” Furthermore, we can show that not all scientists hold to the evolutionary concept but there are scientists who hold to creation based, not solely on their belief in the Word of God but because of the evidence that they have seen in the scientific realm that supports the creationist’s position.

Furthermore, for a Christian to accept the idea of organic evolution, he has to relegate the first eleven chapters of the book of Genesis to the realm of “myth” and thus they cannot hold the to the scriptural doctrine concerning the Scriptures as being “God-breathed” or inspired (II Timothy 3:16-17).

*Ken Chumbley*

## NEWS AND NOTES

Let us continue to keep in our prayers Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett and her mother, Kathy Treadway’s mother, Lanny Niver’s father, Tim Arnold’s father.

Parys Mitchell is still in Palmetto Hospital in Columbia.

Several were unable to be out Sunday because of sickness including Ron Wilson, Helen Culpepper, Ethan Aaron.

Rachel Fitzpatrick was out of town last Sunday as were Tim and Aiden Arnold.

Wednesday evening Ron Wilson, Steven Wilson, Naomi Aaron were sick and unable to be out.

### LISTEN TO THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST RADIO PROGRAM

1050 AM -- WFAM

Sundays 8.00 a.m. to 8.30 a.m

### AN ABOMINATION TO GOD

On one occasion when Jesus was warning His disciples about the peril of riches and materialism, the money-loving Pharisees heard His teaching and ridiculed Him: And he said unto them, Ye are they that justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God (Luke 16:15).

It is obvious that the Lord referred to their love of money when he spoke of that which was “highly esteemed among men.” Perhaps more souls (both worldlings and God’s people) will be sentenced to Hell because of the love of money than any other sin. No wonder the Bible warns of dishonesty, materialism, and greed, and exalts benevolence, generosity, and honesty on almost every page. No wonder Paul wrote, “For the love of money is the root of all evil” (1 Tim. 6:10). We are not to understand that materialism is an abomination to God merely on the ground that men highly esteem it (some things highly esteemed of men are pleasing to God [Gal 5:22–23]). It is abomination because it damns the soul. We must ever guard against the abomination of “covetousness, which is idolatry” (Col. 3:5).

Notice now the broader application of the Lord’s statement: Just because a thing is highly esteemed by men does not mean God favors it. In fact, throughout history, it is almost axiomatic that if most men esteem something highly, God does not. (At present, we should not be surprised at this, since the vast majority of men are atheists and/or agnostics, and even among professed believers, most give only lip service to His law.) Let us make some applications.

1. The Muslim religion is highly esteemed by teeming millions, but it is an abomination unto Jehovah because it represents error, sin, and blasphemy. The Christ alone (not Christ and Mohammed) is the **only** way to God and salvation (John 14:6).
2. The doctrine of salvation by faith alone is “highly esteemed” by the millions in the Protestant denominations, but it is an abomination to God. Men are saved by faith and cannot be saved without it (Rom. 10:9–10), but not by faith only. One’s sins are not forgiven and one is not saved before baptism (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21; et al.).

A list of highly esteemed items would include fornication, drinking, abortion, using instruments of music in worship, elevating a man to be a “pope,” and such like. Will men never learn that the only way to please God is to do what He authorizes in His Word, rather than doing something because they like it? The only things God “highly esteems” are those things which He authorizes in His Word.

— Dub McClish, Denton, TX