

# THE ANTI CHRIST

BY: BRAD CULLEN – JULY 29, 2003

## THE U.S., A CHRISTIAN NATION? OR THE U.S., THE ANTI-CHRIST? \*

\* (This isn't really about The United States – this is about taking a hard look at what Jesus said to do or not to do.)

Technically, of course, The United States is not a Christian nation. Its constitution is completely secular and underscores that fact in Article VI --

“...no religious test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.”

The term translated into English as, “The Antichrist” is a Biblical term significant and important to only a comparatively few of those who call themselves “Christians” around the globe. In the title above... Anti-Christ is hyphenated and therefore refers to something quite different.

I am using the term to point out a fact... some people refer to the good old U S of A as a “Christian” nation. Many English dictionaries give the following first two in their list of definitions of the word “Christian.”

One who professes belief in Jesus as Christ or follows the religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus.

One who lives according to the teachings of Jesus.

A majority of people in the U.S., when pressed on the subject in a way that boils down to arm twisting, such as – into which of the four major religions do you categorize your beliefs, Christian, Hindu, Jew or Muslim? ...still identify themselves as “Christian.” Albeit the question leaves out many factors... including the fact that other major religions such as Buddhism are represented in the United States. The other factors include... the myriad sects that fit into the general categories of the aforementioned major four, but differ (sometimes violently) in their systems of belief and practice.

As stated in the parenthetical part of the title of this piece, this is not about the United States... so let's leave it out of the equation.

How many people anywhere would fall off of that stated categorical “Christian” position depends upon how the term is defined. I realize that I am setting up a “straw man” so that I can blow him to bits. I rather enjoy the process.

Mohandas K. Gandhi, a devout Hindu, who rejected the notion of Jesus being a part of the Godhead... nonetheless stated that his non-violent civil disobedience philosophy, which ultimately forced Great Britain out of India, could be attributed almost solely to (his understanding of) Jesus' teachings. India getting rid of British rule is deemed by many as one of the most significant cultural and political upheavals in over two thousand years. In other words, from an historical perspective, one of the most significant events in modern times came as a result of one man taking the teachings of Jesus Christ seriously enough to follow them! A man that refused to refer to himself as a “Christian.”

On the basis of one of the popular definitions of the term “Christian,” i.e., One who lives according to the teachings of Jesus, one could make the determination that Gandhi was actually a Christian (to the horror of Christians and Gandhi alike).

What could or should be interesting to a thoughtful person is that those who insist that Jesus is “the Christ,” “the Son of God” and other Biblically derived titles that infer the deity of Jesus... are at the forefront of American citizens disavowing (by their statements and actions) some of the things Jesus said.

Now, if you assert that somebody is your leader... but ignore what he said and, in fact, contradict by both word and deed what that leader said to do, is that not hypocrisy of the first order? Is that not a contradiction in fact? A contradiction by reasonable definition is an antithesis, i.e., stands in opposition to a thesis... in other words the prefix “anti” is fitting and therefore isn't “Anti-Christ” an apt term that could and should be applied to anyone who says that he or she is a follower of Jesus Christ, but ignores what he said?

Consider, just as one simple example, that the overwhelming majority of professing Christians are in favor of the death penalty using the Biblical edict, “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth” as their primary justification. What did Jesus say? “It was said of old, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth,’ but I say to you, love your enemies, pray for those who abuse you, return good for evil, give to those who take from you and demand nothing back.”

Those same Christians for the most part also support the notion that the hierarchy of organized Christianity prevalent around the world is a good and proper thing... what did Jesus say? "Do not refer to any other human being by any title that would infer spiritual superiority or having spiritual authority over you. You have one Father and he is in the unseen realm. You have one Leader and Teacher, the Christ! No, you are to be equal just as brothers and sisters are equal and to minister to one another in that equality."

There is more, much more... that is antithetical to what Jesus taught. If you are one who considers Jesus to be "The Christ" isn't it time to review some of your opinions and actions in the light of Jesus' teaching so that you are not being part of the "Anti-Christ?" Isn't it time to perhaps refuse the title "Christian?"

These are just questions... put down those stones!

For a thought-provoking and a faith-evoking list of what Jesus said to do... and what he said not to do... in comparison to what so-called, or self-proclaimed leaders of organized Christianity actually do and teach... read "**THE LIST.**"

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