

Patrick H Gormley

*Debunking Christianity 2014 on the fact that the First Letter of John tells Christians they need no teacher for they have the holy spirit to teach them*

It is good to remember that teachings about the Holy Spirit saving you the trouble of looking for teachers, is dangerous. It leads to arrogance and sectarianism. If Christian A contradicts Christian B and both claim to be guided by God then clearly one has to accuse the other of being a fake or of been fooled by a being pretending to be the Holy Spirit. I just wanted to make that point for I think it is helpful to point out the dangers of a doctrine and not just the silliness of a doctrine. It attracts Christians to the truth - that Christianity is another Mormonism, a pack of lies and errors and rationalisations.

JOHN LOFTUS

*John Loftus said, "I'm not a specialist myself, nor do I have a Ph.D. I am a generalist. Someone has to be an expert in all things Christian, as much as possible. That's my goal. I think having a Ph.D. is a slight factor since having one gains a person some instant credibility. But when I look at some of the scholarly atheist works available I don't think it's much of a factor. Some of their works are not selling any better than mine."*

Personally I feel that having the credibility that comes with a Ph.D can lead to some abusing the credibility. It is remarkable how people regarded as extremely well educated can believe rubbish. Then again they only say they believe it. Or is it a case where they don't care about the truth but about their glory for their credibility guarantees them a reasonably sized audience? I include those theologians who try to justify God commanding violence and murder in the Bible as among those kind of manipulators. Surely if one has people believing the nonsense one preaches just because one is thought to be highly educated then one is going to get a ego boost that does not come from simply passing truth on to a person when truth speaks for itself. Truth is its own thing - it is truth no matter who says it is or isn't. It is its own authority and there is no ego boost in putting the truth out there. And also, no matter who says something we have to think it through for ourselves.

At the end of the day, good thinking habits matter more than any Ph.D and I find John's books excellent examples of them

*December 13 - Posted on Debunking Christianity in response to a comment that people believe what they want to believe and there is no point in trying to change their minds.*

It is not true that people always believe what they want to believe. Do all besotted wives deny the evidence and proof of their husband's infidelity? Some do and some don't. Those that don't believe what they really do not want to believe. Often people feel things are true and mistake this feeling for believing. But you can feel omnipotent though you know or believe you are not. There is a word for a person who only believes what he wants - psychotic is that word.

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