

Do not be conned by people who say their religion is good despite the evil it did as a religion in the past. The past is part of the picture and shows to what extent a religion fails to influence people to be good. The religion needs to be looked at as a whole, past and present and possible future, when you are faced with the question, "Should this system of faith, this religion have been founded and supported?" A religion that has done more harm in the past even if it is civil now is one that should never have existed. The religion's violent history is a lesson about what it could be like now if it got the chance. It is proof that there is an inherent problem. The problem could be that that type of religion is not really about religion but is about power despite the holy facade. The problem could be that the religion is too ridiculous to connect to people's hearts despite their outward observance. A ridiculous religion is to blame for the dreadful consequences when people need guidance and truth and not rubbish. A dark history is a symptom not the illness.

We must remember that the violent history of a religion is the only real test of its capacity for violence and its paving the way for violent urges to emerge. To talk about the good people in the religion or its good side faith or its good founder and its non-violent scriptures is side-stepping the issue. The good is often the enemy of the best. Side-stepping the issue in such a serious matter is itself reprehensible and shows the person lacks tolerance and empathy. People who want to do evil by enabling others to do it are more common than those who are honest enough to do the evil themselves. They are far more to blame than the perpetrators.

When you point to the terrible hatreds and wars that religion started up years ago, people say, "That is what went on in those times". In other words, its excusable considering people didn't know any better then or they were trapped in a culture that made them do bad things. In fact there are exceptions to every rule. Not all areas would have been that ignorant and restrictive. And somebody sometime has to break the mould. There is no excuse. Religion likes to make excuses for its past bad behaviour and there is rarely a heartfelt apology and amend-making for what it has done.

There is too much evil done by the Church in its history so that its continued existence is simply reprehensible and unjustifiable. The Church says God is our Father and all members of the Church are his adopted children. So the Church speaks of them being a family. But one would need to be insane to imagine the Church has the slightest chance of building a global family ... the Church's existence is a failure.

It is vulgar to join and promote and minister for a religion that has been bad and corrupt for centuries and to justify your support by saying, "Look how it has changed". It's past hurt people and for that reason still matters. You are not much of a person if you care that little.

The religion is still dangerous today when it has been bad for so long. The bad has been consistent until recently - it is not blips we are talking about. Its record shows that there are bad seeds in it and if they are dormant they are still there. If you were really that disgusted by what the religion has done you would not be so keen on it. That makes you a seed doesn't it?

Jesus was pro-violence and nobody who hates violence will not bend the knee to him.

The Old Testament God commanded lots of murders. Jesus said God was right to have children that cursed their parents put to death. He claimed to be that God's Son meaning he was fully devoted to this God and admired the evil he did. Jesus never explicitly repudiated those laws. He never apologised for them. The Church assumes he discontinued them. That is not helpful. An assumption is not much. It is in fact an insult to say, "Okay we assume our great and wonderful Jesus doesn't want us to do those heinous things any more." People are still dead because of them. What about them? It is not an assumption matter!

And if Jesus was God then he was the God who told Moses to kill people by having them stoned.

What if Christianity has only reasonable goodness in its history despite having pro-violence scriptures? What then? We could conclude that the Christians are better than their religion. They demean themselves and their children however by being in it. And what about the future? We wouldn't be able to be trust them to stay non-violent.

When you praise the Bible as being unerring in its teaching and doctrine, you are saying it is right to say that God commanded that homosexuals be stoned to death. That is to mention one evil out of many that it commands. This is extreme evil. Respecting and approving of it makes you no better than those who picked up the stones. To praise the Bible is to indirectly respect and approve the evil. To praise the God of the Bible is to implicitly respect and approve the evil. The evil being implicit or indirect does not make it any less bad. It is still as reprehensible and intolerable. In one way, you are worse than the killers for they had more chance of feeling bad about it than you!

THE PAST STILL MATTERS

A religion may seem good now but if its past is full of evil that religion should be feared. Consider how no Catholic centuries ago was against the crusades or stood up for the reputation of the Muslims who were butchered by the Church and its minions. The past shows what a religion is capable of. It shows that it is not essentially immune to doing grave and unspeakable evil. Even if it is not doing it now, the principle is the problem. The principle is that you can only see how terrible things can emerge from acting in the name of God or religion. You need to see it happen before you can know how far from intrinsically good the religion is.

Peter Simons, philosopher: "We should be as morally concerned about both future wrongs and past wrongs as present wrongs."

This is true whether the future exists or not. If past and present and future exist equally then it is true for that reason as well. It would mean that past evils such as Moses ordering genocide matters as much now as current genocide.

If genocide does not turn you off religion so that you will leave its ministry, stop giving it money and stop giving it your children and stop uniting with it to worship on a Sunday (that is like reiterating your membership) then you don't really care and what is to stop it from happening again if there are enough people out there like you??! You should be extremist when it comes to respect for life but you are not. You should also be extremist when it comes to religion's disrespect for life but you are not.

Austin Cline wrote, "Religious extremists and terrorists are not "hijacking" a religion so long as they are drawing upon legitimate traditions from within their religion. These may not be favorable and good traditions, but every religion with enough history will have aspects that people today won't approve of. Every culture and every nation has violent aspects to its history, so it's only to be expected that religions will have violent traditions in their history." The alternative is to say that the extremists and terrorists are not religious ones or related to religion at all! That would be absurd.

Would you support the Roman Catholic Church today if the Inquisition was still in full force and condoned by all? Or what if it was not but the Church wanted it to be?

Think and learn.

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Is Christianity a Cult?