

Real World Graduation: Question 62: Atheist Persecution

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Question 62

A certain city has experienced a large influx of people who have embraced a hatred of Christianity. They claim to be atheists who claim to reject the concept of God and all religions, but in practice, only seek to offend Christians, and to a lesser extent Judaism. They never have an unkind word for Moslems, Buddhists, Sikhs, Wiccans, or Hindus. The atheists have distributed leaflets against "all religion", but only single out Christian traditions as being evidence of evil, hypocrisy, or ignorance. The Christians in the community are subjected to the tirades of atheists in many public places, and even on public property. The atheist groups have become increasingly aggressive, up to the point of calling Christians names on the streets, demonstrating in front of churches during services, and occasionally disrupting a service by physical intrusion. What should the Christians of this community do in response?

- a) Appeal to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) for their help in opposing the atheists, or hire lawyers and sue the city directly in order force the city to enact an ordinance that restrains the activities of the atheist groups.
- b) Close all the churches.
- c) Organize and stage counter-demonstrations whenever they find a group of atheists.
- d) Appeal to the Civil Rights Commission or other federal government agencies for help against the atheists (since they are violating the rights of Christians).
- e) Both a) and d) are viable options.

Answer to Question 62

This is a trick question; all of the answers are wrong.

Answer a) is wrong because hiring lawyers to sue the city, if successful, would force the city to enact an ordinance against one religion (atheism) to the benefit of Christianity; anything the city did would be regarded as either promoting or restraining religion, contrary to the First Amendment. Don't be fooled: atheism is a religion like any other, except it does not have a deity with power over people. It is a religion in which a few "enlightened" people have absolute power over other people. Appealing to the ACLU is a waste of time because the ACLU favors any activity that is regarded as opposing Christianity.

Answer b) is wrong because doing so would give the atheists what they want; it would be tantamount to Christians voluntarily giving up their rights.

Answer c) is wrong because it would give the atheist groups some free publicity, while at the same time, draining Christians of time and money that could be put to better uses.

Answer d) is wrong because government agencies have been sensitized by numerous lawsuits to never be seen as favoring Christianity (although it acceptable to favor the Moslem religion now). It would open the government agencies to a claim of choosing sides in what the universities and the mainstream media (ABC, CBS, NBC, MSNBC, CNN, and PBS) will call a "battle between rationality and those ignorant inbred Bible readers".

The correct answer is to remember what Jesus Christ said [John 15:18-20]:

"If the world hates you [Christians], keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you [believers] do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember the words I spoke to you: 'no man is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also."

And so it is; sooner or later, Christianity is rejected and Christians become the object of scorn and ridicule. The only practical recourse for the Christian community is to take comfort that Jesus' prediction is true, and to laugh it off. If they are confronted in public by the atheists, laugh them off. If the atheists put up signs ridiculing Easter or mocking Christmas, laugh it off. But if the atheists go beyond verbal taunts, and start violent confrontations, then each Christian should send a few of them over to the coroner a little sooner than they expected. Self defense takes over when free speech crosses over into intimidation.