

Truth and Bigotry

“Those who will not reason, are bigots, those who cannot, are fools, and those who dare not, are slaves.” – George Gordon Byron

The word “bigot” is French in origin, first used in the 1600’s. The definition is “a person who is intolerant toward those holding different opinions.” Intolerance is bad enough, which denotes fixed attitudes against forgiveness; but judging another’s opinion regarding something they hold as true for the purpose of forcing them to change, is the ultimate insult against freedom of thought.

Whether a society is free or bound by tyranny requires every individual to form an opinion. Once exercised, the opinion becomes belief, yet it may never reach knowledge status. A fact is a fallacy, in the mind of a bigot, stuck in the belief stage until something comes along to forcefully destroy or confirm it.

Ancient wisdom is neither silent nor passive on bigotry. First John 2:11 reads, “...the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.” An addition is, “he who blinds another’s eyes with bigotry leads his follower into destruction.”

A word incorrectly but commonly used in place of bigotry is “racism.” The definition is prejudice, discrimination or antagonism directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one’s own race is superior. One cannot change his or her race even with strong desires to present a different image. A few do their best to want others to see them as a member of another ethnicity when seeing through their lie is obvious.

Intolerance is a part of bigotry, not racism. Bigotry then is an action intended to force change in belief, whether internal or demonstrated in such a

way that you insist on thoughts, not race, are superior and must be applied to all around you. What better way to promote alienation of affection!?

Bigotry has multiple tentacles from a common cancer of evil, and rarely will a perpetrator of bigotry recognize nor acknowledge the infection. The mental “virus” may be jealousy, rumor or unjustified conviction of self superiority. Being *different* racially, financially, politically, religiously, intellectually or occupationally is never a justification for the evil practice of bigotry. Remember that the very practice of evil means the bigot is trying to diminish another person, race or group into nothingness, practicing superiority, which is a direct affront to truth and love. Those subjects of another’s bigotry are the automatic winners in their twisted relationship, leaving the bigot void of love, which is the ultimate evil.

Forcing your bigotry on another person or group of any kind or size can set war of any severity into motion. A well-known and prime example is Hitler’s attempts at wiping out the Jewish Nation, and in more modern times, Iran’s sworn destruction of Israel. Examples of bigotry can be found anywhere a society exists, and there never has nor ever will be justification for it.

That “cancer” of bigotry is as old as humanity yet more potent with time. A way to promote bigotry for selfish gain is to incite anger through lies that appear as fact designed to resonate with prejudice. And, a sure way to clear the path to instant bigotry is to erase the history that forces humanity to remember the destruction produced by it. Destroying the “monuments” to bigotry never erases the problem from society; it only causes the next generation to be ignorant of the destructive power, allowing excuses and those destructive actions to appear acceptable. Woe to the generation that clears the way to bigotry in the name of progress. The truth is bigotry, even religious bigotry, only destroys.

Ancient examples are easy to find. Whether you are a Christian or not the story of Saul, as relayed in Acts (New Testament), is a horrific case of terror, murder and incitement to riot. Had Saul been alive today, he would likely be serving a life sentence or be executed for his actions of bigotry. Imagine the events as recorded and beginning with Acts 7:57. The group (mob) accepting the bigotry of Saul, began yelling at the top of their voices, so loudly they had to cover their ears, while rushing at Stephen, a man following the teachings of Yeshua. Of course, Stephen ran from the city and attackers where the mob began stoning him. While throwing stones to kill Stephen, each attacker laid their robes in front of Saul, signifying allegiance to their incitement of hate-filled anger. Removing their robes let the breezes cool their sweaty bodies to continue throwing rocks at Stephen. A sharp contrast was Stephen's words, full of forgiveness and void of bigotry, were, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" With those words, he died.

Was the mob satisfied with this murder? No. Saul, who was renamed "Paul" at a later time, went door-to-door in Jerusalem, looking for those who believed in Yeshua, dragging men and women off to prison. This bigoted terrorist intercepted their letters from prison to identify even more for torture and death. With this kind of access to their communication, Saul's actions must have been approved by government officials, showing that authority can also be steeped in bigotry and rank evil.

Such hate was not exclusive to Saul or the anti-Christian officials in government. Many early Christians were opposed to relaying information about Yeshua to gentiles, keeping company with sinners and even displaying displeasure toward the young man born blind that Yeshua healed. Modern bigotry against rival denominations in Christendom is certainly not new, showing how opposition to those who believe, even a slightly-different version of

theology, are under the pronounced penalty of hell. Such verbal terrorism is rampant.

At the risk of repetitiveness, sinister actions of major Christian ministries against others, negates the claim of truth and love and reduces their reputations to the “love of money.” The quote in First Timothy 6:10 is, “...the root of all evil, which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

Step outside Christianity with teachings of truth and love and into cults with active and very real murder of “infidels,” and the chaos and nothingness of bigotry is ramped up to a most sinister result for today’s humanity. Bigotry, whether practiced against another Christian denomination or promoted by violent terrorist, is a horrific curse and violation against God, by whatever name given; truth, love and all goodness.

Bigots not only destroy people and societies around them, but obliterate themselves in the process. They are truly “suicide bombers” using bigotry as the explosive device to destroy via thought and action.