

WHY THERE'S A WAR ON CHRISTIANS

A Speech by Don Feder Delivered at The World Congress of Families Symposium at The Azuza Street Centennial (April 26, 2006)

When I was in college (if I'm not mistaken, John Quincy Adams was one of my classmates), I had a math book which introduced a theorem with the assertion "it should be *intuitively obvious* even to the most casual observer...."

Well, few things really are that readily apparent. But, to those of us who have been paying attention, it is *intuitively obvious* that there's a war raging in this country.

It's called a culture war. To be more precise, it's a war on Christians and Christianity.

It's a war of words and actions. It's a war fought not with bombs and bullets, but with court decrees, administrative decisions, corporate policies, editorials, movies, books and television. It is no less deadly than conventional warfare.

Let me cite just a few examples of this conflict, for purposes of illustration:

- “V for Vendetta,” released in March, was the most explicitly anti-Christian movie to date. It’s set in a Britain, 20 years in the future, ruled by a murderous regime of Christian fanatics – a “Christian” regime that kills, tortures and suppresses human rights in the name of virtue. (That there is no such Christian dictatorship, anywhere on earth, doesn’t deter the entertainment community from smearing Christians.) Hollywood has gone from “The Song of Bernadette” and “The Greatest Story Ever Told,” to “The Last Temptation of Christ” and “The DaVinci Code.”
- According to a 2004 report by the Parents Television Council, the portrayal of religion on prime-time television is overwhelmingly negative. On NBC, there are 9.5 negative representations of faith for

every positive portrayal. Christians as fools, fanatics and frauds has become a staple of entertainment television.

- The courts have taken prayer out of the public schools, religious expression out of the public square, parental control out of public education, and are on the verge of taking God out of the Pledge of Allegiance and a man and a woman out of marriage.
- In California, an employer can be fined \$150,000 for firing a man who comes to work in a dress. The law wasn't intended to target secular humanists.
- Hewlett-Packard fired a Christian for posting near his cubicle a sign with Bible verses relating to the prohibition of men lying with men. This was in response to a celebrate-sexual-diversity poster put up by the company. Hewlett-Packard does not celebrate diversity of opinion.

- At colleges across the country, Christian groups have lost their accreditation for refusing to accept homosexuals as officers. Thus -- at schools founded by Christians and endowed by Christians – Christians are forced to choose between their faith and the ability to hold meetings on campus.
- In the New York City school system, Moslem crescents and menorahs are displayed during certain times of the year, but not Christmas trees or crèches. School officials have decided that the former are *non-religious*, while the latter are sectarian.
- Attorneys for the Alliance Defense Fund recently sued the Downingtown (Pennsylvania) School District. The local high school told the Downingtown Prayer Club that they could post signs inviting students to the annual “See You At The Pole” prayer gathering, only they omitted a Cross and any reference to God, which raises the intriguing question

of to whom students were being invited to pray. At other schools students have been told that they can't read their Bible during recess or distribute candy with religious messages. Teachers have been ordered to remove religious jewelry.

- Recently, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a unanimous resolution condemning the Catholic Church for not placing children for adoption with so-called same-sex couples. The supervisors called this “hateful and discriminatory.”
- Also in March, the Christian youth group Teen Mania held a two-day revival for 25,000 kids in the city that inspired the name “San Francisco Democrats.” Supervisors labeled this “an act of provocation,” while State Assemblyman Mark Leno called it a “fascist mega-pep rally.”
- Conservative Christians have been described as “a clear and present danger to religious liberty in

America” (by former Labor Secretary Robert Reich), determined to “Christianize all aspects of American life” (the Anti-Defamation League’s Abraham Foxman), “moral retards” and “an ugly, violent lot” (City University of New York Professor Timothy Shortell), “the party of paranoia” (Bill Maher) possessed of “the same kind of fundamentalist impulse that we see in Saudi Arabia” (Al Gore), “sort of our home-grown Taliban” (Senator Tom Harkin) and responsible for moving America “each day closer to a theocracy where a narrow and hateful brand of Christian fundamentalism will rule” (in a full-page ad in The New York Times, signed by Jane Fonda, Ed Asner and other Hollywood political thinkers).

- In Philadelphia, in 2004, Christians with a group called Repent America were arrested for holding signs and peacefully witnessing at a city-sponsored gay pride event. The City of Brotherly Love wanted

to prosecute them for a laundry list of felonies, including criminal conspiracy. If convicted, each could have faced up to 47 years in prison.

Fortunately, a judge dismissed the case. Like no other group, increasingly, Christians are subjected to harassment and intimidation for exercising their First Amendment rights.

- None of this is lost on the public. According to a December, 2005 FOX News poll, 59% of the American people believe, “Christianity is under attack in America today.” The other 41% don’t read newspapers, watch TV or leave their homes.

That there’s a war on Christians is a given. A more intriguing question is why? For the answer, consider the Amish.

No one hates the Amish. Hollywood doesn’t make anti-Amish movies. (In the 1985 film “Witness,” the Amish were portrayed as quaint and charming.) No one in the media frets about

a conspiracy to Amish-ize America. There are no organizations dedicated to exposing the insidious agenda of the *Amish right*.

That's because the Amish don't try to influence anyone. They live in their own isolated communities. Unless it impacts them directly, they have no interest in the outside world. They don't vote. They don't start political movements.

And so, the elite are pleased to let the Amish go their way, confident that they will have no effect on the wider world.

Not so Christians. Christians write letters to the editor and letters to their congressman. Christians launch voter-registration drives and boycotts. Christians even run for elective office. In national elections, Christians often are the most important voting bloc, as they were in both 2000 and 2004.

Opposition to abortion, embryonic stem-cell research, euthanasia, same-sex marriage, the normalization of perversion and the porn-ification of our culture comes primarily from Christians.

Christians picket abortion clinics and march for the unborn. The campaign to save Terri Schiavo was organized and led by Christians. Successful state ballot initiatives for the defense of marriage have been spearheaded by Christians. The teaching of Creationism or Intelligent Design as an alternative to evolutionism is promoted by Christians. The home-school movement, which deprives public education of victims, is a Christian phenomenon.

The left understands all of this quite well. It knows that the principal obstacles to the realization of its utopian agenda -- whose goal is an America that will make San Francisco on a Saturday night look like Boise, Idaho on Sunday morning -- are conservative Christians.

In the April 20th edition of the Christian Science Monitor, Howard Dean, stand-up comic and chairman of the Democratic National Committee, is quoted as saying, “The religious community has to decide whether they want to be tax exempt or involved in politics.”

Now, which “religious community” do you think Governor Dean was trying to intimidate? The National Council of Churches? The churches that were involved in Jesse Jackson’s presidential campaigns? The Buddhist temple that did a fundraiser for Al Gore in 2000? None of the above. Howling Howard was threatening conservative Christians – in other words, those who take Christianity seriously.

The war on Christians seeks to stigmatize and marginalize Christians, to progressively diminish their influence over public affairs, to confine religious expression to houses of worship and to consign Christians to a white-clapboard ghetto, so as to prevent them from impeding the neo-pagan onslaught.

If they succeed, the outcome will be catastrophic. Recall John Adams admonition: “Our Constitution was made *only* for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” Those words are as true today as they were in 1798.

Europe illustrates the triumph of Godlessness. Weekly church attendance is 5% (compared to 35-40% in the U.S.) The continent is ravaged by a plummeting birthrate, soaring Moslem immigration and a pervasive moral malaise among the young.

In her book “Menace in Europe,” Claire Berlinski writes: “A poll conducted in 2002 found that while 61% of Americans had hope for the future, only 42% of the residents of the United Kingdom shared it. Only 29% of Frenchmen reported feeling hope, and only 15% of Germans. These statistics suggest ... that without some transcendental common belief, hopelessness is a universal condition. I do not believe it is an accident that Americans are both more religious and more hopeful than Europeans, and more apt, as well, to believe that their country stands for something greater and more noble than themselves.”

Let’s face it: No one ever founded a republic, wrote a constitution enshrining civil liberties, freed slaves, hid Jews during the Holocaust, created a great work of art, wrote a symphony,

founded a hospital or established a charity or a university based on a secular worldview.

You may wonder why I, as a Jew, care about the war on Christians – because I care about my country, my family and my faith.

The outcome of the war on Christians will determine the type of nation we will be: one nation under God, or one nation under Godless Hollywood, -- a nation where children learn modesty and decency, or one where they are recruited for the sexual revolution by Heather's Two Mommies and Daddy's New Roommate -- a nation of churches and synagogues, or a nation of porn shops, tattoo parlors, abortion clinics and casinos?

The left's war on Christians is the latest chapter in a drama that's been going on for over 200 years. It started in revolutionary France, included the Freudian psycho-therapeutic assault, proceeded to Bolshevism and the other toxic isms on the 20th century and included the Kinsian we're-all-animals school of sex

research, the normalization of perversion and the de-valuation of human life.

But now the war has spread to a country founded by Christians, on Judeo-Christians principles.

A number of years ago, I had the pleasure of interviewing Charlton Heston. I raised a matter I've always been curious about. I asked him if playing Moses in "The Ten Commandments" had changed his life, and how?

Heston replied that after that, he didn't get invited to many Hollywood parties. He said that nobody wants to be fooling around with somebody else's wife, look up and see Moses staring at them.

Well, my friends, the left doesn't want to look up and see you staring at them. While they'll aborting 1.2 million children a year ... while they're killing the elderly and disabled ... while they're destroying the institution of marriage ... while they're raising a generation of moral illiterates – they don't want to look up and see you staring at them.

That's why there's a war on Christians – a war that only one side can win.