

PERFECTLY INANE RESPONSES TO COULTER'S COMMENTS ON JEWS

By Don Feder

The serious Christians I know: 1. Don't wear low-cut, skin-tight dresses (especially the men) 2. Don't call people they want to put down "fags" (even those who are) and 3. Don't consort with the likes of Bill Maher and former New York City Council President Andrew Stein.

That's why it's hard to take Ann Coulter seriously as an evangelist.

But those who were incensed by Coulter's comments on a TV talk show – that Jews need to be perfected by conversion to Christianity – are among the legion of the easily-offended-and-perpetually-aggrieved. In the case at hand, they refuse to understand that disagreement based on deeply held beliefs is not the same as genocide.

Anyway, no one can get the left going like our Ann.

When she drops one of her verbal bunker-blasters (which, coincidentally, often coincides with the release of her latest book) liberals become completely unhinged. There are the usual calls for her to be tossed out of a plane in the Arctic Circle (sans cell phone) – for starters. At any moment, one expects the Coulter-haters to begin rolling on the floor and chewing on the edge of a carpet, while flecks of saliva fly from their lips.

The latest Coulter controversy arose during an interview on CNBC. Donnie Deutsch, host of "The Big Idea," asked the best-selling author to describe her ideal America.

Coulter replied that it would look like a GOP National Convention (presumably, without the Log Cabin Republicans). Ann: “People were happy. They’re Christian. They’re tolerant. They defend America. They –“ (here, Deutsch, starting to sputter, interrupts) “Christian – so we should all be Christian? It would be better if we were all Christian?” Coulter: “Yes.”

There followed several minutes of the barely coherent, mind-numbing exchanges that typify such forums, in the midst of which Coulter observed that Christians “just want Jews to be *perfected*” by embracing Christianity.

The unhinging commenced almost immediately.

The American Jewish Committee charged Coulter’s declaration “smacks of the most odious anti-Jewish sentiment.” Note the superlative – “the most odious.” In terms of anti-Jewish sentiment, apparently, “Mein Kampf” has nothing on “If Democrats Had Any Brains, They’d Be Republicans.”

The Anti-Defamation League found her remarks “outrageous, offensive and a throwback to the centuries-old teaching of contempt for Jews and Judaism.”

The Simon Wiesenthal Center concurred, and tried to one-up the competition by observing that Coulter’s claim was not only “deeply offensive” but reflected “the classic language of anti-Semites throughout the millennia.” Torquemada here we come!

Ira Forman of the National Jewish Democratic Council (a group that shills for a party which tolerates leftist and Muslim anti-Semitism) said Coulter should be banished from the mainstream media. The left is devoted to the expression of all ideas it does not find deeply offensive (a rapidly shrinking list).

The piece de hysteria (believe me, the competition was stiff) was a column by *LA Times* media critic Tim Rutten, who darkly warned that, “The rails leading to Auschwitz were greased by precisely the opinion Coulter expressed on American television this week.” Rutten – who’s saying that evangelizing facilitates genocide – needs to be kept away from a keyboard, for his own safety.

Regarding Coulter’s comments, David Horowitz – once a leading light of the left, now one of its most trenchant critics – rhetorically asked: “What else would a Christian hope for? That’s the message of the New Testament: Jesus came to fulfill, complete, perfect the Law. If you’re a Christian, that’s what you believe.”

A convert to Judaism and the author of “Why the Jews Rejected Jesus,” David Klinghoffer can hardly be accused of pandering to the Christian right.

Writing in *National Review* online, Klinghoffer put the matter in a broader perspective, observing: “On one level, the whole affair is just so silly. Which religion, whose adherents accept the tenets of that religion as the truth about God, does not regard adherents of other faiths as holding imperfect theological notions? If religious belief is important, then to accept more perfect beliefs is to be more perfect.”

Traditional Catholics believe Protestants have an imperfect understanding of the basis for the authority of the bishop of Rome, and wish for them to be perfected in this regard. Evangelicals believe Catholics need perfecting on several key doctrinal matters.

Latter-Day Saints would like all of us “gentiles” to be perfected by accepting “The Book of Mormon” as revelation. And so on.

Most of us can discuss our differences with goodwill and respect. Then there are the Muslims, who think infidels can be perfected through jihad. For Islam, theology is a blast.

Generally, Jews were offended by Coulter in reverse relation to their adherence to normative Judaism. While it may have been hotly discussed at Manhattan cocktail parties, I doubt Ann's call for Jews to get perfected was a topic of conversation in Hasidic neighborhoods in Crown Heights and Boro Park.

One of the first phrases children learn in Hebrew school is "Torah emet" – Torah is truth. Torah here refers not just to the Five Books of Moses but the Prophets and later writing, as well as the Oral Law or Talmud.

I view Christianity as a force for great good in this country. In a recent column, I agreed with John McCain's assertion that America is a Christian nation, which is no more than a recognition of reality.

However, as a believing Jew, I view other religions as true to the extent that they reflect the ultimate truth of Judaism.

Unlike Christianity, Judaism is not a proselytizing religion. We do not believe that conversion is necessary for redemption. To have a share of the world to come, non-Jews need only follow the ethical precepts of the Noahide Law.

But, would I like it if all Americans converted to Torah Judaism? Of course – though, admittedly, America would be a duller place absent the current debate among different religions and secular dogmas.

Obviously, that's not going to happen.

In the meantime, I'm grateful that serious Christians embrace the moral code set forth in the Jewish Bible. I find it ironic that a few years ago, evangelical Christians were clamoring for public display of Mosaic Law (in the form of Ten Commandments monuments), while most Jews sat on the sidelines or fretted about "church-state separation."

It's also heartening that an increasing number of conservative Jews are joining with evangelicals and Catholics to defend Biblical values, in a nation where morality is increasingly imperiled. (Witness the Portland, Maine middle school that recently began distributing oral contraceptives to children as young as 11.)

In this grand alliance, none of us expects the others to stop believing what they believe (about Jesus, the pope or anything else), or to stop expressing those views. We do hope, however, that they will do so with sensitivity, instead of Coulter-esque insouciance.

Her penchant for provocation aside, do Coulter's critics know that she's an impassioned defender of Israel who challenges anti-Semitism in academia and the anti-war movement? If they did, would they care?

In her 2003 book "Treason," Coulter wrote: "Upon viewing widespread repression, poverty and violence across the Middle East, liberals turned with a vengeance against Israel, the one small outpost of democracy in the entire region. College protestors began demanding that universities divest from Israel. Anti-war protests bled into anti-Israel protests and sometimes into anti-Semitic hooliganism."

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice presumably does not believe in replacement theology. But, as an unpaid lobbyist for the

Palestinian Authority, not only is she working assiduously for the creation of another terrorist state, but she's telling Israelis that they must accept a divided Jerusalem as the price for paper promises from the PLO and Hamas.

So, which do I prefer -- a defender of Israel who thinks I need to be perfected, or an ecumenicist who tells us Islam is "a religion of peace and love" and is perfectly content to see Israel with indefensible borders, and bordered by a state run by the biggest homicidal whack-jobs in the region?

Hmmm? Tough call.