

Authentic Christianity

by Doy Moyer

Authentic Christianity — that is, by the Book — has never been responsible for murder, evil threats, or anything like it. Ever. People claiming Christianity have been responsible for much evil, but there are many who claim Jesus that Jesus will not claim (Matt. 7:21-23). Do not mistake what the Book actually teaches in the name of Christ for what people claim who take Christ's name in vain. The truth of real Christianity is found in Christ and His preserved message, not in the faulty claims and lives of those who use Christ for carnal purposes. Those who do this are stealing the name of Jesus to further their own ends. Never let that define biblical Christianity. Go to the actual source for the truth.

What about the killings found in the Old Testament? First, they are limited in nature to a specified people at a specified time. These examples were never about God's people everywhere dealing with every other nation on earth. They were confined to ancient Palestine, and were temporary measures to deal with very wicked nations at a special time in history.

Second, the specific actions taken by those under the old Law system are not the standard for what Christians do under Christ. God used temporary measures at a time when the gathering of His people physically (nation and land) was necessary to bring about the circumstances under which Christ (the Seed) would come and fulfill the old Law, which, again, was temporary and incomplete. In other words, the New is not the Old; the complete is not the partial. Christianity cannot be judged by an incomplete and temporary Law system. The New makes that clear.

How Christians, according to the Book, are to treat others is plainly stated and unequivocal. This includes loving enemies (Matthew 5:44), never returning evil for evil or insult for insult (1 Peter 3:9), and striving to live peaceably with all (Romans 12:18). Passage after passage shows a gracious, loving mentality that would never seek to harm others, all the while seeking for opportunities to share the gospel of God's grace. Sin is not ignored, but is given a framework for forgiveness through Christ.

Our plea is for authentic Christianity. By the Book. Settle for nothing less. Agree to nothing more.

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