

Was She Surrounded by Religious Fanatics or Just Fanatics?

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Olivia Christensen (Huff Post, Nov 20, 2020) ([Link | Grew Up Surrounded By Religious Fanatics. Here's What I Know About Trump Supporters. | HuffPost HuffPost Personal](#)) complains that she grew up “surrounded by religious fanatics”. But what religion were her acquaintances fanatic about?

Both of us were raised in religious traditions, one as a Christian and the other as a Jew. The bible has definitely affected our lives. One of us was more affected by the Old Testament; the other by the New. One even studied in a monastery immersed in Theology. Neither of us can quote chapter and verse of the Scriptures like many of you. However, we share a comfortable familiarity with what is there.

In some sense, we now find ourselves uncomfortably burdened with a deep quandary regarding some evangelical fanatic. . The simple statement of our quandary is that we do not understand how Believers, imbued with God’s Biblical messages, lessons and commands are able to tolerate and even approve intrusions on a woman’s right to choose for herself or insisting that politician’s share voter’s religious beliefs.

So, we seek your consideration. We wonder if we are all squandering an opportunity presented to us for recognizing evil and deciding for good. We cannot understand how those who believe the literal word of the Bible are tolerating the status quo.

Particularly relevant is that the Bible describes the qualities of leaders. How is it that a person who does not have those qualities can be accepted, trusted and so blindly followed? Several, very flawed evangelical practitioners come to mind

There are many small points – and we are all flawed – some evangelicals blatantly recommend contravening many of the Commandments. Yes, we all do from time to time, but we apologize or express our sorrow and seek forgiveness. He never does. He has committed adultery, being unfaithful to several wives, borne false witness almost every day, behaved in an almost idolatrous way with respect to himself, vitiated many who worked for him as well as many who have given everything for the country. He has cheated, in fact stolen, from people who labored for him, abused the Name of God and prized the state of the Dow Jones above all else.

Galatians 6:9 tells us not to become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. The President has allowed thousands of people to die unnecessarily in service of his re-election and is working to cut off health care to millions, while never delivering on promises. That is not ‘doing good’!

In Hebrews 13:7 God recognizes that people imitate their leaders who spoke God’s word to them and advises us to consider the outcome of their leaders’ way of life and imitate their faith. How can we do that with this President who exhibits none of the qualities God teaches and we value?

Matthew 7:12 says to do to others what you would have them do to you. The President does to others what no one should do to them: he lies, speaks insults, labels them hatefully, turns them against each other, ignores mass death, disregards the suffering of migrants, separates children from parents and demeans the impaired and people of color.

In **Philippians 2:3** we learn that we must do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, we should value others above yourselves. What could be less descriptive of the President's behavior?

Remember also that **Philippians 2:4** tells us not look to our own interests but each of us to the interests of the other. The only thing of importance to the President is being reelected, clearly in his own interest.

Our leaders, according to **Timothy 3:2**, must be above reproach, faithful to their spouse, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach and so on. This man lacks all those characteristics.

If those points were not enough, then consider the Deadly or Cardinal Sins, especially pride, wrath and greed. Narcissism is pride incarnate, his throwing people 'under the bus' is the definition of wrath and centrating on the Stock Market is greed personified! These are the sins that tend us towards other sins; recovering from them is extraordinarily difficult.

Could today's scourges, like COVID-19 be consequences of the evil we see and hear every day? Sodom and Gomorrah suffered those consequences and God visited plagues on people who did not heed the Word. Reflect on that a moment. We have recently suffered terribly from massive fires, repeated disastrous floods, societal instability, storms and viruses. The Bible tells that afflictions like these were insufficient to influence the words and deeds of many in the past and they do not today! Is COVID-19 the 11th plague?

Many leaders have done little to support and preserve our natural, God-given, world. Rather they inflicted harm. Some seem determined to pillage our environment by interest-driven support for projects that ravage the land and poison the water and air, not to mention removing health care and social supports. Regarding our environment, both in **Genesis 2:15** and **Leviticus 25: 1-5**), God gives humans stewardship of the Earth – responsibility for its care.

The President recently said that an important benefit of the COVID epidemic was that he was spared from shaking hands with his "disgusting" supporters. Isn't this not the opposite of the message of Christ's loving and healing the lepers?

We do not wish to participate in the partisan wrangling, so we will not suggest for whom you should vote. However, we will ask you to consider for whom NOT to vote. We ask you to examine your conscience and to decide if a wrathful, greedy, arrogant, lying, deceptive person who only pays lip-service to God's Word and uses the Bible and a church as a photo op is more likely to be an acolyte of Lucifer who would do anything – literally anything – to get what he wants. Remember that Lucifer is seen as wise and very convincing and able to take on many forms. **Revelation 3:19** does suggest a solution: "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent" Perhaps it is time for us all to repent, resolving never to support evil like this again!