

Christianity Reviled

I think I understand why many hate, fear, distrust, disdain Christianity and those who say they are centered in Christianity.

Many who call themselves Christians lie, some quite convincingly, about what Christianity is, and about who God and what God is. Many might not lie intentionally. Their belief that they describe and live by what God is and says might be sincere, but they have misinterpreted and come up with a definition of God that isn't accurate and from that inaccurate definition an inaccurate definition of how God instructs us to live and how to relate to others. Mathew 5 Sermon on the Mount:

(3 As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" 4 And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. 5 For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray.) English Standard version

God is love, John says, in The Bible.

I John 4:

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

1John 4:16:

...God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he

is so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot[a] love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Jesus Christ, on whose life and teachings Christianity is founded, agreed with John's definitions and showed us how one who agrees that God is Love, lives, thinks, acts, teaches, and heals.

Many say God, who is Love, is the God they believe in, worship, and love, while they spew hate, destruction, ignorance, detestation and devastation of their fellow man, in God's name, in Jesus Christ's name. Their hatred is not what Jesus Christ taught. Jesus Christ taught love and told us to love one another, as he loves us, as God loves us. Mathew 43:

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Years ago, a friend told us she read that a man shoved something down another man's throat and choked him, killed him. Our friend reported that, after the murder, the killer said God told him to do it, to kill. Therefore, she said, it must have been right for him to carry forth this murder.

No, no. Faulty reasoning. God, particularly as defined by Jesus Christ by his words and actions as recorded in The New Testament of The Bible, did not tell any man to murder. That man may have believed God told him to murder, but that doesn't make it so.

Many might believe they follow God's teaching when they

spew hatred, call for, and bring about destruction, but that does not mean they **are** following God's teaching or Jesus Christ's teaching as he followed God. God is Love I John 4:8 "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." Love does not, cannot hate.

"in whom is no variableness neither shadow of turning." God is constant, always the same, does not turn, does not change. God is always Love, does not vary from that Love nor turn from it.

The woman taken in adultery, brought before Jesus Christ, who her captors asked about stoning. Yes, according to God's law as spelled out in the ten commandments, she had sinned, and the law, as prescribed in the Old Testament said to stone her to death. Jesus Christ's instruction to those who brought her to him was to examine themselves, and one who found himself clear of sin, cast the first stone. The accusers left without casting any stones, and Jesus Christ told the woman to go, that he did not judge her and to sin no more. Her sin was not without consequence, but the consequence was not up to men, not even to the Christ, but between her and God. I think nothing has changed. If judgement is required for any sin, that judgement is between the sinner and God.

I John 4:16 "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him."

Some say God told them to do something or to believe something, when God did not tell them to do the deed they talk about nor to believe as they believe. Some say The Bible, as God's word, tells them to do something or to believe something, and their claim will be easy to prove or disprove by carefully reading The Bible. Thou shalt not kill. Love your neighbor as yourself.

Every Christian must differentiate between the teachings in the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The New Testament is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ came because humankind had not understood who God is nor the relationship he has with every individual nor the power that relationship has to bring love to all of us, the power to bring peace and oneness to humankind.

The responsibility every person who wishes to express Christ in action and belief is to hold every guidance taken from the Old Testament up to the light Jesus Christ brought us, to ask, "Does putting this guidance I take from the Old Testament meet

what Jesus Christ taught us to be and to do?"

For example, does detesting a homosexual honor Jesus Christ's admonition to love one another? If you confront this question while dealing with other people, remember that Jesus Christ didn't instruct you to love everything a person does, but to love the person, and to not judge that person. Does any Christian trust God? If you trust God, leave the judging, if there is to be such, up to God.