

Peter Haralamos ©

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### **The Religious Divide**

Never in the history of America has there been such a widespread hatred for Christians and their beliefs as there is today. It has also been along time since Christians have been so outspoken in the defense of their religion. The terror attacks on 9/11 woke many Christians up to the fact that most of the world hates them and would love nothing more than to destroy America. What's scary is that there are Americans who are, politicians, judges, actors, and journalists who feel this same way. The radical Islamic terrorists chose to attack America because we symbolize Christianity to the world. A person doesn't have to follow current events to closely to realize that Americans around the world have been targets for terrorism for the past couple of decades. After the calculated terrorist attack on September 11, 2001 Christians all across America realized that the *Jihad*, Osama Bin Laden demanded from his followers, was genuine.

Prior to 9/11 the Christian opposition followed a more passive route not really making any waves unless offended. There were not many politicians willing to admit their deep religious convictions before that fateful day. Journalists who would defend terrorists and Saddam Hussein didn't exist. Marines didn't have the courage to throw grenades at their own men, just because they weren't sympathetic to radical Islam. Americans didn't know just how young terrorists were being recruited to be suicide bombers. Americans didn't think it was necessary to defend the fact that persecuted Christians seeking religious freedom from the Church of England founded this country.

Post 9/11 has unveiled a whole new spiritual war that is being led by all those that oppose God. Now the world is full of journalists who enjoy bashing Mel Gibson's movie about the crucifixion of Christ, and TV show hosts that compare Christians to parasites.

America could also use a few less judges who want to redefine the law and specifically marriage. Christians have not been idly watching all this happen. They have been starting new and expanding old evangelical and educational outreaches through radio, TV and print. In fact just a few months ago a Christian radio station in Washington DC made it into the top ten of the most popular stations in the Baltimore Washington metropolitan area.

Christians have not only stepped up efforts to evangelize but also educate and enrich existing believers, giving them the power to defend their religion. The gap between the religious and the secular has greatly increased but that is not necessarily a bad thing. Far too often Christians are taken advantage of and passed off as submissive. If anything 9/11 has forced Christians to fight for what they believe. It is comforting to know that their fighting will not take anyone's life, just offend some people with their words.

### **Bibliography**

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