

GETTING READY FOR WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA¹

Violence towards Christians—even to the point of murder—which has been going on for many decades in countries such as Nigeria, has finally begun here!

And what's the justification given for such hatred & violence?

Our disagreeing with people and taking biblical positions on issues such as:

- **That there are only two sexes or genders, male & female** – “*And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them; and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it’ and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’*”² – Gen. 1:27-28
- **That a person cannot change from one sex or gender to the other** – “*But Jesus said to them... ‘from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female.’*” – Mark 10:6
- **That life begins at conception & abortion is murder** – “*For Thou didst form my inward parts; Thou didst weave me in my mother’s womb. I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Thy works, and my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from Thee, when I was made in secret... Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Thy book they were all written, the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them.*” – Ps. 139:13-16 cf. Jer. 1:5 & Luke 1:41
- **That private property & free enterprise i.e. capitalism is biblical**³ – “*‘You shall not steal’... ‘You shall not covet your neighbor’s house...or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor’... ‘Cursed is he who moves his neighbor’s boundary mark.’ ...So Judah and Israel lived in safety, every man under his vine and his fig tree, from Dan even to Beersheba...He who tends the fig tree will eat its fruit... and each of them will sit under his vine and under his fig tree, with no one to make them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken... ‘In that day,’ (i.e. the Millennium) declares the LORD of hosts, ‘every one of you will invite his neighbor to sit under his vine and under his fig tree.’ ...’* – Ex. 20:15 & 17; Deut. 27:17; 1 Kings 4:25; Prov. 27:18; Micah 4:4; Zech. 3:10
- **That people should work hard & laziness is to be condemned, not rewarded** – “*In all labor there is profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty... The desire of the sluggard puts him to death, for his hands refuse to work... and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working; for by trade they were tent-makers... I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or clothes. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my own*

¹ By Mike Edwards, Greer, SC, Oct. 2025 (rev. Dec. 2025)

² All Scripture quotes taken from The Ryrie Study Bible (NASV), Moody Press: Chicago, IL, 1978.

³ For an extensive defense of this position & a refutation of socialism/communism & the false belief that what happened in Acts 2-4 was that (It wasn't, since what happened there a) was voluntary, b) involved only Christians, c) was temporary, d) distribution was not made equally, & e) it still didn't work!-cf. Acts 5), as well as what real equity is, see my papers titled *Biblical Economics and Economic Systems in the Bible*, under the *Economics* tab on my website: www.biblicalthinktank.com

needs and to the men who were with me. In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak... For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we might not be a burden to any of you; not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, that you might follow our example. For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone will not work, neither let him eat... But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." – Prov. 14:23; 21:25; 22:13; Acts 18:3; 20:33-35; 2 Thess. 3:6-12; 1 Tim. 5:8

- **That all men are sinners, not basically good. So... crime & evil behavior will occur & should be punished swiftly & firmly** – *"Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man... There are six things which the LORD hates, yes seven which are an abomination to Him: Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, a false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers... To show partiality to the wicked is not good, nor to thrust aside the righteous in judgment... Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil... The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it? 'I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds... For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not... For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who bring wrath upon the one who practices evil."* -Gen. 9:6; Prov. 6:17-18; 18:5; Eccl. 8:11; Jer. 17:9-10; Rom. 7:18; 13:3-4

Fact: Deliberate lies caused thousands of Christians to be brutally killed during the first three centuries! And... what were the blatantly false accusations which caused them to be tortured, put into sacks filled with snakes, thrown to lions, *"Quartered,"* & crucified during those first three centuries?⁴

- Christians were accused of being **Arsonists!** Nero & others falsely said they burned Rome.
- Christians were accused of being **Atheists!** Why? Because they didn't worship the gods of the Roman Empire.
- Christians were accused of being **Traitors!** Why? Because they refused to say, *"Caesar is Lord,* instead declaring *"Christ is Lord."*
- Christians were accused of being **Immoral!** Why? The unsaved knew little about them and believed the gossip, rumors and deliberately false statements regarding them e.g. giving

⁴ I am indebted to the late Dr. Edward Panosian, Professor of Church History, for these historical points which I learned in a graduate course taught by him in the late 1990's.

- “holy kisses”, calling each other “brother & sister,” & even being cannibals, since it was said that they ate flesh & drank blood! (i.e. observed the Lord’s Supper)
- **Christians were accused of being Exclusivists i.e. not being Inclusive!** *Why?* Because they believed & taught that Jesus was the one & only way to heaven.
- **Christians were also hated because their lives were morally convicting.** They had stopped practicing the degenerate behavior commonly practiced at the time e.g. drinking, prostitution, idolatry, sexual orgies, homosexuality, etc. This brought conviction to the consciences of the people of that time who were eagerly engaging in such things, in a culture that was full of it.

And sadly... the same techniques that worked so well in the first three centuries to cause people to hate, torture & kill Christians still works in the 21st century!

Are you surprised? You shouldn’t be!

Techniques such as:

1. **The use of “Gaslighting”** – i.e. accuse Christians of what the accusers themselves are guilty of! i.e. *Hate, bigotry, racism, entitlement, privilege*, etc. Interestingly, those calling themselves *Antifascists*, actually fit a large part of the dictionary definition for fascists! *Look it up!*
2. **The use of “Ad Hominem” methodology** i.e. attack, mislabel & insult a person, instead of trying to respond to their position, belief, or viewpoint. **A forgotten truth: Disagreement is NOT hate!**
3. **Engaging in name calling, mislabeling, branding, etc.** Call those you don’t agree with names like *“Nazis,” “Fascists,” “Racists,” “Bigots,” “Haters,” “Entitled,” “Karens,” Homophobes, Transphobes, Islamophobes, Xenophobes*, & any other *“Phobe”* you can think of! **But I would again remind such name callers: Disagreement is NOT a phobia!**

But unfortunately, those evil but effective first century methods still work today:

- **We’re accused of being Haters!** -*Why?* Because we don’t accept & endorse any & every kind of immoral behavior or viewpoint. The Bible declares that when people choose to “*suppress the truth in unrighteousness*” and turn their back on God and, “*worship and serve the creature, rather than the creator...they are without excuse*. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools.” – **Rom. 1:18-22**. And eventually God gives such individuals over to a) **Immorality**, then b) **Homosexuality**, and finally, c) **A Reprobate Mind** i.e. **a mind that can’t think straight** – **Rom. 1:24-28**. And when you can’t tell what a boy & a girl is, or you think you can change from one sex to the other, *you’re there!*
- **We’re accused of being Racist!** -*Why?* Because we believe there is *only one race-the human race* -**Gen. 1:26-28; 3:20; 9:1; 11:5-8; Acts 17:26-27**. And we endorse a strong work ethic where jobs & advancement are based on productivity & merit, not on the shade of a person’s skin, ethnic background, or view on sexual behavior! – **Eccl. 9:10; Eph. 4:28; Col. 3:22-24**

Furthermore, that everything from academic opportunities to employment should be based on ability, diligence & a strong work ethic. And we oppose the rewarding of lazy &/or sinful behavior by the giving out of free, undeserved handouts. – **1 Tim. 5:8; 2 Thess. 3:10-12**

- **We're accused of not being Inclusive!** -*Why?* Because while we respect every person's right to believe what they wish, we don't endorse every religion & viewpoint as equally true & valid. We unapologetically teach what Jesus & the Bible teaches: **That Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven! – John 14:6; Acts 4:12**
- **We're accused of being Nazi's & Facists!** – As mentioned earlier, the *Antifascists* actually fit quite well the definition of fascists! Webster's Dictionary defines fascism as: *“characterized by rigid one-party dictatorship, forcible suppression of opposition, (and) private economic enterprise under centralized governmental control, belligerent nationalism, racism, and militarism”*⁵ That sounds a lot like those in Antifa and their supporters: i.e. only those who agree with them & their viewpoints are tolerated & those who disagree are racist. They protest anything they disagree with by rioting & destruction, and they're “*all in*” on total government control-as long as it's their brand of government i.e. socialism/communism!
- **We're accused of being Bigots!** -Please note today's unbiblical definition of “*Love*” as a tolerating, approving of, and endorsing of any & every kind of immoral behavior that any person wishes to engage in. **However, the Bible declares that real love is grounded in and based on truth!** “*And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and in all discernment, so that you may approve things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ;*” –**Phil. 1:9-10**. The apostle John, often called “*the apostle of love*” **boldly declared that love must be based on truth:** “*The elder to the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in truth; and not only I, but also all who know the truth, for the sake of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever...I was very glad to find some of our children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father. And now I ask you, lady...that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments...* Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God...If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, **do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting(!); for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.**” (Wow, how “*unloving*”) – **2 John 1, 3-6, 9-10** cf. John's statements in **1 John 2:3-6 & 3 John 6-12!** Today however, anyone who doesn't approve of every kind of sinful behavior is labeled a bigot & a hater. “*Love is love*” & “*Love like Jesus*” is worn on T-shirts & printed on plaques! **But how did Jesus love?** He was wonderfully merciful to the contrite, but also called the proud, but false religious leaders of His time *hypocrites, fools, blind guides, serpents, vipers, & whitewashed tombs!* -**Matt. 12, 15, & 23.** He didn't tolerate immoral behavior, but instead took it to a much deeper, inner level! -**Matt. 5:27-30** Jesus said to turn the other cheek rather than seek revenge (**Matt. 5:39**), yet He also called out those who slapped Him! -**John 18:21-**

⁵ Webster's New World Dictionary of American English, (Prentice Hall/MacMillan Company: New York, NY, 1994), p. 492

23. He graciously healed a man who hadn't walked in nearly forty years (**John 5:1-14**), but He also told him, "*Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse may befall you.*" Jesus lovingly forgave a woman taken in adultery (**John 8:1-11**), but He didn't endorse her immoral behavior. Instead, He told her to repent & do a 180-degree lifestyle change: "*Neither do I condemn you; go your way. From now on sin no more.*"

- **We're accused of being *Divisive!*** -*Why?* Because we don't condone & approve of any & every kind of moral conduct & behavior. But the Bible lists & condemns multitudes of sins, both inward & outward, in many places e.g. **Rom. 1:24-32; Gal. 5:19-21; 2 Tim. 3:1-5**

So... with what's happening in America today, what should you do if you know Christ?

1. **ASK GOD TO GIVE YOU A "MILITARY MINDSET!"**

News flash: We're in a spiritual war, not on a church picnic! Jesus was totally cognizant of the fact that He had been "SENT" i.e. **He was on a MISSION:** To do God's will and give His life for us-**John 4:34; 5:24, 30, 36; 6:39, 57; 7:18, 28, 29, 33; 8:16, 18, 26, 29, 42; 9:4; 12:45; 14:24; 15:21; 16:5 & 17:3, 21, 23, 25.** No wonder He exclaimed: "***It is Finished!***"-**John 19:30** And in another difficult time of hatred for Christians, Peter said: "*Gird up the loins of your mind,*" i.e. "***Gird your minds for action!***" - **1 Peter 1:13 cf. Acts 14:22; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; 2 Cor. 4:7-14; Eph. 6:10-20; 2 Tim. 2:3-13.**

2. **GET READY FOR & EXPECT PERSECUTION!**

The Scripture says **ALL** true believers **WILL**-not might-experience persecution, in one fashion or another! -**2 Tim. 3:12**. Jesus made that crystal clear to His disciples the night before He was crucified: "***If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.***"-**John 15:18-22**. John said we shouldn't be surprised the unsaved world doesn't understand us & even hates us! -**1 John 3:1 & 13; 4:5-6**. And in His prayer in Gethsemane, Jesus said to the Father: "***I have given them Thy word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world***" adding: "***I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.***"-**John 17:14-16**

Then He gave to every true believer the key to standing strong in the face of such hatred & persecution: "***Sanctify them in the truth; Thy Word is truth.***"-**John 17:17**. In other words, for a believer to be able to stand faithful in the face of such trials & hatred, **he/she must keep their head in the Word of God, and by His grace & in total reliance on the Holy Spirit, live it out!**

3. **ASK GOD TO HELP YOU RESPOND TO ANIMOSITY, HATRED & EVEN PERSECUTION IN A BIBLICAL WAY!**

Don't return evil for evil, reviling for reviling, etc. Instead, by the power of the Holy Spirit & the grace He alone can impart, respond in a strong and unapologetic, yet gracious & loving way to hatred, name-calling, & wrath. - **Matt. 5:43-47; Luke 6:22-36; 1 Pet. 2:17-22; 3:8-12; Rom. 12:17-21; 1 Cor. 4:12**

What about “**DEI**”? (*Diversity, Equity & Inclusion*)

First of all, proponents exhibit a total misunderstanding of what real equity is. It is NOT equality!

The basic meaning of equity is “uprightness,” “straightness,” “fairness,” “integrity,” etc. It’s the concept of a level playing field. An equality of **Opportunity**, not of **Results**. There will never be equality in results—unless it is forced, as in Communist countries—and even there, nothing close to equality exists!

Furthermore, poverty will never be completely eradicated! That’s because people are poor for a variety of reasons. Jesus Himself said: “**For the poor you have with you always.**” – **Matt. 26:11** This is a basic fact that the socialist/progressive crowd deliberately refuse to acknowledge, since it doesn’t play into their goal i.e. a purported equal distribution of wealth via socialist/communist government control.

Some people are poor or destitute due to “disease, famine or other catastrophe. This group receives the compassion of God and the compassion of the people of God.”⁶ “The people of God are commanded to help such ones because God Himself is moved with compassion for them.”⁷

- **Another group of people are poor or destitute because of laziness, or due to engaging in destructive personal habits & practices, such as drinking, drugs, gambling, immorality, etc.** “People can be poor because of their own lack of discipline or initiative. (or) a steady provider can develop an alcohol or cocaine habit and plunge himself and his family into poverty. This group gets no sympathy from the Bible at all. In fact, they earn God’s judgment.”⁸ The Bible rebukes sluggardly behavior (see Proverbs) and bluntly states “**If a man won’t work, neither shall he eat.**” – **2 Thess. 3:6**
- **Another category of poor, are the voluntary poor** i.e. those who choose occupations that they know will not make them wealthy, but which they engage in, because of a motivation to help others.
- **Others are poor because they live in a country which has a corrupt &/or dictatorial (often Socialist or Communist) government** e.g. China, Russia, Cuba, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, Haiti, Ethiopia, etc.

So...why have you not heard of this wide variety of reasons for poverty?

Have you noticed that socialists/communists only talk about & criticize “Free Enterprise/Capitalist” countries? *Why?* Because **they want an exclusively political solution** i.e. socialism/communism, which is portrayed as the solution to the problem of economic inequality! **Nothing could be further from the truth!** Furthermore, such advocates are anything but inclusive, since they exclude and seek to totally silence anyone who disagrees with them. They insist not just that you allow their thinking & behavior, which is often horribly perverted, but you must loudly endorse it—or else!

In reality, a more accurate acronym for **DEI** would be **PIE**...

since those pushing it actually promote **PERVERSITY, INEQUITY & EXCLUSION!**

⁶ R.C. Sproul, *Biblical Economics—Equity or Equality* (Christianity Today, 5 March 1982)

⁷ Lloyd Billingsley, *The Generation That Knew Not Josef—A Critique of Marxism & the Religious Left* (Multnomah Press:Portland, OR), 1985, p. 165

⁸ Ibid.

PERVERSITY – *Because under the guise of “Diversity” they demand that people be given academic scholarships, jobs, positions, etc., based on their so-called “gender identity,” the color of their skin, their ethnic group’s ratio of the general population, etc. That’s not diversity! It’s Perversity!*

Consider the following dictionary definitions:

Perverse: “deviating from what is considered right or good; wrong, improper, etc. or corrupt, wicked, etc.; perverted. Persisting in error or fault; stubbornly contrary.”

Pervert: “To cause to turn from what is considered right, good or true, misdirect; lead astray; corrupt...distort; twist. To bring into a worse condition; debase...a perverted person; esp. a person who practices sexual perversion.”

Perverted: “Deviating from what is considered right, good, or true; misdirected, corrupted, etc. Of or practicing sexual perversion.”

Perversity: “The quality or condition of being perverse.”⁹

And nothing could be more of a sexual perversion than men thinking they can become women and women thinking they can become men, not to mention men dressing up as women in drag queen shows.

INEQUITY – *Because under the guise of “Equity” (which they intentionally mis define as equality), they insist that people be given scholarships, employment opportunities, positions, roles, jobs, etc., based on their views on human sexuality, world politics, skin color, ethnic background, etc..*

Equity: “Fairness, Impartiality, Justice. Anything that is fair or equitable.”¹⁰

Inequity: “Lack of justice, unfairness.”¹¹

And the above-mentioned practices, which are regularly practiced by schools, businesses & state & federal government departments, is anything but fair!

EXCLUSION – *Because by their demand to award positions, scholarships, employment, etc., based on an individual’s above-mentioned “politically correct” views or physical characteristics, they blatantly and deliberately exclude better qualified individuals, for positions, appointments, jobs, etc.*

Exclude: “To refuse to admit, consider, include, etc.; shut out; keep from entering, happening, or being; reject; bar.”¹² That sounds exactly like what the mayor of Boston did not too long ago, when she barred anyone except minority individuals from a city government function!

What about “Reparations” for evils committed by past generations?

First of all, why should people 4-5 generations later be sent on a “guilt trip” & feel responsible for things they had absolutely nothing to do with? The Bible condemns such thinking and teaches individual responsibility! cf. Deut. 24:16; 2 Kings 14:6; 2 Chron. 25:4; Jer. 31:29-30; Ezek. 18:20

Secondly, it’s the Bible’s clear teaching on the equality of all men, & it’s unequivocal condemnation of partiality that motivated people like William Wilberforce & a multitude of other Christians in Great Britain & America to work for & eventually abolish slavery!

⁹ Op cit., Webster’s New World Dictionary, p. 1009

¹⁰ Ibid, p. 460

¹¹ Ibid, p. 690

¹² Ibid, p. 474

Finally, if you still insist on reparations, then before we advocate for certain descendants of mistreated individuals in America, we need to first rise up and immediately begin demanding that Egypt pay reparations to *every single Jew on earth*, since they brutally enslaved the Jews for 400 years—*nearly twice as long as slavery existed in America!* I’m sure Egypt will be “*all in*” on that 😊

And... while we’re at it, let’s not forget all the present-day Americans whose ancestors came from various parts of Europe & North Africa! Slaves outnumbered free people during the centuries that the Roman Empire held sway! So, all of us in America whose ancestors are from France, Spain, Germany, Great Britain, Poland, Morocco, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, etc., should be entitled to enormous reparations from Italy & Italian-Americans, due to the slavery our ancestors endured! Maybe we can start by going after the Mafia and taxing their profits. 😊

I’m reminded of when we were living in the West Indies & I was teaching a course on church history at a Bible college located there. I had just stated that Africa had a rich Christian history which we were about to delve into. At that point a student said, “*Rich history? Our ancestors were just a bunch of slaves!*” I responded: “*That may be true. But I’m also part American Indian. And at least your ancestors got their freedom in 1834. Some of my relatives are still living on reservations! But at some point, we need to stop blaming the past & take responsibility for our own life & what we’re doing with it!*”

I would close with this excellent comment by Thomas Sowell, an extremely well-known and highly respected scholar, economist, writer & commentator. **His words are particularly noteworthy because he’s African-American, and he was also once a diehard Marxist:**

“(M)any who repeat the ‘giving back’ mantra would sneer at any such notion as patriotism or any idea that the institutions and values of American society have accomplished worthy things and deserve their support, instead of their undermining. **Our educational system, from the schools to the universities, are actively undermining any sense of loyalty to the traditions, institutions and values of American society.** They are not giving back anything except condemnation, often depicting sins common to the human race around the world, as peculiar evils of ‘our society.’

“**A classic example is slavery**, which is repeatedly drummed into our heads—in the schools and in the media—as something unique done by white people to black people in the United States. **The tragic fact is that, for thousands of years of recorded history, people of every race and color have been both slaves and enslavers.** The Europeans enslaved on the Barbary Coast of North Africa alone were far more numerous than all the Africans brought to the United States and to the 13 colonies from which it was formed. **What was unique about Western civilization was that it was the first civilization to turn against slavery, and that it stamped out slavery not only in its own societies but in other societies around the world during the era of Western imperialism.** That process took well over a century, **because non-Western societies resisted... Those who want to ‘give back’ should give back the truth. It is a debt that is long overdue.**”¹³

¹³ Thomas Sowell, quote taken from *The Patriot Post*, in a section called “*For the Record*”, circa 2000