

## And Then There's This

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The Straight Poop from the Pope

Pope Leo X:

**What profit has not that fable of Christ brought us!**

### Sillygisms

*Judge not, that ye be not judged.*

That's one of those Bible nuggets that makes a lot of sense, unless you bother to think about it.

In case you hadn't noticed, ye be judged. Ye be judged every day by every person ye come in contact with. And that's not a bad thing. It would be pretty silly not to judge people, and it would be sillier to think they don't judge you. Matthew 7:1 is a *sillygism*.

Don't judge? What are elections about if not judging people? What are election campaigns about if not judging people? And if you don't do some industrial-strength judging before you get married, you will most certainly do some industrial-strength judging soon after the wedding.

Here's another Bible sillygism. *Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.* (That's a loose translation of Matthew 7:12.) Pope poop. We do unto others according to our roles, positions, responsibilities, needs, desires, expectations, and abilities. Having them respond in kind is often the last thing we want. Sometimes my doctor sticks his finger up my ass. I don't think he is looking for reciprocation, and I know I'm not.

We treat people differently, because people are different.

Would you show the same respect and consideration to a member of the clergy that you would show to a convicted child molester? (Oops. Bad example, since in the case of Catholics, especially, there is considerable overlap.) Would you look to a seasoned big-city cop for spiritual advice? Would you send a squad of Baptist preachers to deal with a bank robbery in progress? Would you

hire someone who has never held a job to manage the affairs of a large nation? (Okay, another bad example.) Do you treat your parents the same way you treat young children?

## St Augustine's Shocking Confession

One of Christianity's most famous saints, Augustine, admitted that Christianity is a rehash of ancient pagan religions, myths, and traditions:

**That which is known as the Christian religion existed among the ancients, and never did not exist; from the beginning of the human race until the time when Christ came in the flesh, at which time the true religion, which already existed, began to be called Christianity.**

## What's Not to Like about Christianity?

So, first God made man in His image. And by that, Christians mean man is absolutely nothing like God in any way. And God gave man free will. By which Christians mean if man doesn't do exactly what God wants, the way He wants it, man is sentenced to eternal hell. Shortly after creating man just the way He wanted us, God got so pissed off at us that he drowned everybody but Noah and a boatload of animals. Even innocent, defenseless babies were drowned in God's holy hissyfit. Even that didn't help, so God figured the way to make things right was to get some poor guy strung up on a cross. Nothing says love like a good lynching, heh Christians? Yes indeed, folks, whatever is ailing you, Christianity will fix you right up. And if nothing is ailing you, Christians know just how to fix that, too.

## Fundagelicals Need to Face the Facts

I am not interested in trying to prove that God does not exist. That, IMHO, is a colossal waste of time. But I can, and do, prove that the Bible is not the infallible, inerrant word of God, as fundagelicals insist. Actually, the Bible itself proves it. I just point out examples of that. The Easter story is perhaps the most obvious and important example.

The Biblical Easter narrative is proof beyond a reasonable doubt that the fundamentalist evangelical position is untenable. There are so many inconsistencies and contradictions in the Easter story that no reasonable person could possibly conclude that the

several accounts are somehow harmonious and consistent. At least one of the Bible authors is flat out wrong in his portrayal of Easter. That alone proves that the Bible is not the infallible and inerrant word of God.

It also proves that the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, without which Christianity disintegrates, is not historical or biographical. It is the product of ancient imaginations, with origins far earlier than Christianity. The core of the story is firmly rooted in pagan religions and mythology, refurbished slightly and marketed as Christian Good News. It may be good Christian marketing, but it is not news, and it is not good. Unless you happen to have a passion for fraud.

If the revered Apostle Paul said anything worth reading or remembering, it is this:

**... and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ . . .**

Exactly. And Christ has not been raised.

You may reasonably somehow find encouragement, inspiration, or entertainment in the Biblical Easter narrative, but the notion that it is historical fact is risible. Fundagelicals must either face that fact or continue to be the laughingstock of the rest of the world, including many who consider themselves Christians.

## Faith

I have stated that Christianity (like Islam) is a form of mental illness. Is that too harsh?

One symptom of mental illness is losing touch with reality. Doctors might call it *schizophrenia*. Christians call it *faith*. Same condition, different name.

People who hear voices are among those we recognize as mentally ill. Instead of calling it hearing voices, Christians call it the Holy Spirit. Same condition, different name.

Christianity can and often has led to bizarre, dangerous, criminal, indecent, unacceptable behavior. Christians have killed millions of people, often other Christians. In spite of its bloody, evil past, Christians today insist that their religion causes morality and good behavior. It has not, and it often does not. Quite the contrary.

Faith, properly understood, does not involve religion at all. It is simply a necessary social mechanism for getting along with others, by believing that others will treat you well. We know that not all will, but if we don't behave as though most will, we are paralyzed by paranoia. Faith is driving through an intersection when the light turns green, expecting others to stop at their red light. Faith is shaking someone's right hand and believing that he won't hit you with his left hand.

So, I have faith. Fundagelicals have fantasy.