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MUSLIMS—OUR FRIENDS?

Following are excerpts from Nonie Narwish's book, *Cruel and Usual Punishment*, pp. 133, 134. Narwish was converted from Islam.

“Regarding friendship with non-Muslims, the Qur'an says in 5:51, 'O ye who believe! Take not the Jews and the Christians for your friends and protectors. They are but friends and protectors to each other. And he amongst you that turns to them for friendship is of them.'” Again, “Qur'an 3:118 says, 'O you who believe! Take not as your intimates those (unbelievers) outside your religion. They will not fail to do their best to corrupt you.'” While Muslims stress conciliation with others, the words of Mohammed belie their facade of friendship. We have but to look at the attitude toward Christians and Jews in Muslim-controlled countries to see reality. As Narwish observed on pages 132-133: “With radical Islam now on the rise, it is no longer safe for Jews and Christians to live in Arab and Muslim countries. They are not allowed to practice their religion peacefully in many Muslim countries, and in Saudi Arabia they cannot practice any religion other than Islam under their Sharia laws. In one-third of the world—the Muslim world—Christians and Jews are not welcome.”

It is troubling that, as a whole, our nation chooses to believe that the Muslim “religion” is a “religion of peace,” and is basically like Christianity, while the very opposite of such claims is the truth. Where Islam reigns, freedom and Christian values are cast aside. Islamic propaganda would have us to believe otherwise—until their number is sufficient to impose Sharia law, nullifying a nation's Constitution. It's tragic to learn of public schools propagandizing impressionable children. While a teacher is not allowed to so much as say anything about Jesus, we are told in a *News With Views* report, “Seventh graders in this public school are taught: ‘May God help us find the true faith, Islam.’” Schools, in teaching World History in Maryland are taught about the supposed benefits of Islam, not about their historic and present violent nature, nor their anti-Semitism, subjugation of women, and the contrast to the basic God-given values and freedoms we enjoy in our “once-Christian nation.” While schools may no longer even post the Ten Commandments on a school's walls, Islam's “Five Pillars” may be openly taught and discussed, a practice defended on the basis of helping students to develop “critical thinking skills”. One school book that is recommended for students to read is not the Bible, but includes writings of Muslim Brotherhood teacher Yusuf Qaradawi, who has been reported as calling for the killing of Jews and Christians.

Friendship with those of the Muslim persuasion should be encouraged, though not to the acceptance of their religion. Show friendship and kindness to all, even toward those with whom we disagree. At every opportunity let us have them in our prayers, and, as opportunity arises, share with them the precious message of Christ, which many have yet to hear.

-Ron

INFATUATION OR LOVE?

Much that passes for love is nothing more than infatuation, a temporary, and at times foolish, obsession. This is common in childhood, but not unknown in adults. It is quite evident in those who are constantly “falling in and out of love.” True love dies hard, while infatuation may be “here today, but gone tomorrow.”

There is one love that never fails. It is not the romantic type of love, but a

self-giving love. This is the type of love that God has shown toward us. It is also the love that we are to show towards one another. The apostle John declared, “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins,” then adding, “Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another” (1 John 4:10-11).

God is not infatuated with the human race. Although, through sin, we have offended Him, yet His love endures. If we allow trivial offenses from others to alienate us, we are not showing God’s love in our lives.

As for our relationship with God, mere infatuation with Him will put self ahead of Him. Jesus said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). This is the test to see whether we truly love Him, or are simply infatuated with Him.

-Ron

THE STRAIT GATE

Strait is the gate, the way is narrow,

To realms of endless bliss:

Sinful men and vain professors,

Self-deceived, the passage miss:

Rushing headlong,

Down they sink in the dread abyss.

Sins and follies unforsaken,

All will end in deep despair:

Formal prayers are unavailing,

Fruitless is the world ling's tear:

Small the number

Who to wisdom's path repair.

Thou who art Thy people's guardian,

Condescend my guide to be:

By Thy Spirit's light unerring,

Let me Thy salvation see:

May I never

Miss the way that leads to Thee.

--*Benjamin Beldome, 1818*

“DOUBTING THOMAS”, REALLY?

How would you like for me to survey your entire life, pick one of your weakest moments, and choose to identify, from that point on, that moment? I don't think any of us would want this done to us, but it may precisely be what we have done with the apostle Thomas. We are very familiar with the doubts that Thomas expressed in John 20 when he said that he needed to see the wounds in Jesus' hands and side to believe he had resurrected. However, what we fail to consider is that Thomas was not the only unbelieving apostle. Jesus upbraided all the apostles for their unbelief following his resurrection, and had them all examine his wounds.

That being the case, you're tempted to dismiss a co-worker, an acquaintance, or a fellow church member that you witnessed having a “bad moment.” Be fair with them. Don't measure their entire life by their one act of weakness. Give them the opportunity to redeem themselves. After all, doesn't the “Golden Rule” demand such? (Matthew 7:12).

--Steve Higginbotham

WHERE ELSE but in the United States could you criticize the President in the morning, join a protest at City Hall in the afternoon and receive your government welfare check in the evening mail?

OUR SYMPATHY to Sammie upon the death of her older sister in Tennessee this past week.