

11.28.2022 SHOW NOTES:

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION AND ISLAMIC SUBVERSION

COMMUNITY IN MISSION

The Five Stages of Religious Persecution

Posted on [September 1, 2014](#) by [Msgr. Charles Pope](#)

I first wrote on the topic of religious persecution over two years ago and since then things have only gotten worse. Clearly the situation in Iraq is awful. But here in the U.S. as well, the threats against religious liberty have continued.

Indeed, here in the States it is rare that a respected segment of American life would become vilified and hated overnight. The usual transformation from respect to vilification progresses in stages that grow in intensity. And thus the Catholic Church, once a respected aspect of American life (along with the Protestant denominations), has become increasingly marginalized and even hated by many. It may help us to review these stages of persecution since it would seem that things are going to get more difficult for the Church in the years ahead. Generally there are five basic stages of persecution.

By way of giving due credit, I want to say that these stages were introduced to me by [Johnette Benkovic](#), of [Women of Grace EWTN](#). She spoke at a fundraiser here in DC for [WMET 1160 AM](#), our Catholic radio station in the Guadalupe Radio Network. She gave a wonderful talk and a summons to courage. Among the things she set forth was a sober vision of how we have arrived at this current place where the culture is increasingly hostile to Christians, and to Catholics in particular. The stages are from her talk; the commentary is my own.

Here, then, are the five stages:

I. Stereotyping the targeted group – To stereotype means to repeat without variation, to take a quality or observation of a limited number and generalize it to describe the whole group. It involves a simplified and standardized conception or view of a group based on the observation of a limited sample.

And thus as the 1960s and 1970s progressed, Catholics and Bible-believing Christians were often caricatured in the media as “Bible thumpers,” simpletons, haters of science, hypocrites, and as self-righteous, old-fashioned, and backwards.

Catholics, in particular, were also accused of having neurotic guilt and a hatred of or aversion to sexuality. We were denounced as a sexist institution filled with clergy who were sexually repressed, homosexuals, or pedophiles. We were labeled an authoritarian institution stuck in the past, one with too many restrictive rules.

Basically, as the stereotype goes, Catholics and Bible-believing Christians are a sad, angry, boring, backward, repressed lot. To many who accept the stereotype, we are a laughable—even tragic—group caught in a superstitious past, incapable of throwing off the “shackles” of faith.

To be sure, not everyone engages in this stereotyping to the same degree, but those are the basic refrains. And the general climate of this sort of stereotyping sets the foundation for the next stage.

II. Vilifying the targeted group for alleged crimes or misconduct – As the stereotyping grew in intensity, Catholics and Christians who did not toe the line in the cultural revolution were described as close-minded, harmful to human dignity and freedom, intolerant, hateful, bigoted, unfair, homophobic, reactionary, and just plain mean and basically bad people.

The history of the Church is also described myopically as little more than a litany of bad and repressive behavior as we conducted crusades and inquisitions, and hated Galileo and all of science. Never mind that there might be a little more to the story: that the Church founded universities and hospitals, was a patron of the arts, and preached a gospel that brought order and civilization to divided and barbaric times in the aftermath of the Roman Empire. The critics won't hear any of that, or if they do, will give the credit to anyone or anything except the Church and the faith.

In writing this, I fully expect to get a bevy of comments saying, in effect, that this is exactly what we are. And not only will they feel justified in saying this, but even righteous, so ingrained has this vilifying become in the wider culture.

As with any large group, individual Christians and Catholics will manifest some negative traits, but stereotyping, vilifying, and crudely and indiscriminately presuming the negative traits of a few to be common to all is unjust.

Yet all of this has the effect of creating a self-righteous indignation toward believers and of making anti-Catholic and anti-Christian attitudes a permissible bigotry for many today.

III. Marginalizing the targeted group's role in society – Having established the (false) premise that the Church and the faith are very bad and even harmful to human dignity and freedom, the critics proceed in the next stage to relegate the role of the Church to the margins of society.

To many in secularized culture, religion is seen as something that must go. They will perhaps let us have our hymns, etc. within the four walls of our churches, but the faith must be banished from the public square.

In this stage it becomes increasingly unacceptable and intolerable that anyone should mention God, pray publicly, or in any way bring his or her Christian faith to bear on matters of public policy. Nativity sets must go; out with Christmas trees. Even the colors red and green during the “Holiday Season” are forbidden in many public schools!

Do not even *think* of mentioning Jesus or of publicly thanking him in your valedictory address; you could very well have a judge forbid you to do so under penalty of law. You may thank Madonna the singer, but not *the* Madonna.

The LGBT club is welcome to set up shop and pass out rainbow-colored condoms at the local high school, but Christians had better hit the road; no Bibles or pamphlets had better see the light of day anywhere in the school building ... separation of Church and State, you know...

IV. Criminalizing the targeted group or its works – Can someone say HHS mandate?

But even prior to this egregious attempt to violate our religious liberty there have been many other times we have had to go to court to fight for our right to practice our faith openly. An increasing amount of litigation is being directed against the Church and other Christians for daring to live out our faith.

Some jurisdictions have sought to compel Catholic hospitals and pro-life clinics to provide information about or referrals for abortion and to provide “emergency contraception” (i.e., the abortifacient known as the morning-after pill). Several branches of Catholic Charities have been de-certified from doing adoption work

because they will not place children with gay couples. In 2009, the State of Connecticut sought to regulate the structure, organization, and running of Catholic parishes. And recently a number of Christian valedictorians in various states have suffered legal injunctions when it was discovered that they planned to mention God and/or Jesus in their addresses. (More details can be found [HERE](#).)

Many of these attempts to criminalize the faith have been successfully rebuffed in the courts, but the number and frequency of the lawsuits, and the time and cost involved with fighting them impose a huge burden. It is clear that attempts to criminalize Christian behavior is a growth sector in this culture and it signals the beginning of the steady erosion of religious liberty.

Many indeed feel quite righteous, quite politically correct in their work to separate the practice of the faith from the public square.

V. Persecuting the targeted group outright – If current trends continue, Christians, especially religious leaders, may not be far from facing heavy fines and/or incarceration.

Already in Canada and in parts of Europe, Catholic clergy have been arrested and charged with “hate crimes” for preaching Catholic doctrine on homosexual activity.

In this country there are greater provisions for free speech, but as we have seen, there is a steady erosion of our religious liberty and many Catholic dioceses are very familiar with having to spend long periods in court defending basic religious liberty. The trajectory points to suffering, lawsuits, fines, and ultimately jail.

Unlikely you say? Alarmist? Well, stages one through four are pretty well in place. One may wish to “whistle past the graveyard,” but it looks like we’re pretty well set for stage five. You decide.

Maybe a heavy post requires a light video. Here, Paul and Silas land in jail. It’s so bad its good:

AMERICAN THINKER

Persecution of Christians in America: It's Not Just 'Over There'

By [Fay Voshell](#) May 10, 2015

By now, the whole world is familiar with the snuff films documenting the forced marches and [beheadings](#) of orange-jumpsuited Christians by such groups as ISIS. Churches are blown up or converted into mosques, monuments and tombstones are pulverized or desecrated, and Christian schools are shut down while refugees from the horror of ISIS and other Islamist groups literally flee to the mountains.

But as it did at the turn of the 20th century, when the harassed and tormented Armenians were exterminated by the hundreds of thousands, the world turns a nearly blind eye to the distress of Christians and groups like the [Yazidis](#), 600 of whom were [slaughtered](#) only a heartbeat in time ago. By and large, the extermination of Christians and Christian culture from the Middle East and Northern Africa is greeted by the West with a sigh or ignored altogether.

That is because for most Americans, persecution of Christians is perceived as happening only somewhere over there in other countries. Distance serves as anesthetic. Certainly it's not happening here. Not in the United States of America! Numbed Christians in America assume they are safe from persecution.

But they are not safe.

As [Msgr. Charles Pope and Johnette Benkovic](#) point out, persecution of a hated segment of society begins gradually and accelerates stage by stage. Christians in America should recognize they are well into the first stages of persecution.

BELIEFNET

Is There Christian Persecution in America?

While Christian persecution is widely recognized in other countries, most do not realize the persecution happening right at home.

[By Megan Bailey](#)

Today, just like in the book of Acts, Christians are persecuted all over the world for following Jesus. While Christian persecution takes many forms, it is defined as any hostility experienced as a result of identification with Christ.

Trends show that countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East are intensifying persecution against Christians, and perhaps the most vulnerable are Christian women, who often face double persecution for faith and gender. North Korea was ranked #1 for the 17th consecutive year as the most dangerous country for Christians on the World Watch List.

These trends make sense for many American Christians. Persecution of their religion only happens in faraway countries, right? Wrong. Christian persecution is happening right here at home, on our own soil. Many here are attacked for their faith too. While it might not be at the level of beheadings or burned down churches as seen in other places of the world, it still is a problem that is growing. Traditional Christians are facing increasing intolerance in this country through the fines, the lawsuits, the jobs lost, and the public disdain felt.

Here are some of the ways that you might be experiencing Christian persecution in America, without even realizing it.

Persecution in politics.

Many politicians in the United States get attacked for their religious beliefs. For example, Senator Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, and Kamala Harris, D-Calif., [chose negative and angry questions](#) in an interview with Brian Buescher, an Omaha-based lawyer nominated by President Trump to sit on the United States District Court for the District of Nebraska. Buescher, a Catholic, has very traditional values. Due to

his beliefs, he was subjected to scrutiny by these two senators. They tried to cast doubt on his ability to serve in public office because of his Christianity.

Traditional values are continuously trying to be removed from America. In general, the beliefs of the right are being called closed minded, however they are beliefs that are found in the Bible and have been a part of this country for years. For example, where [Christian bakers](#) are refusing to bake cakes for same-sex weddings, or those in public office are refusing to authorize same-sex wedding certificates. These people that have stood up for what they believe in were given a huge amount of negative publicity.

Furthermore, there has been consistent push to remove all traces of God from government for many years. Our Pledge of Allegiance, for example, has been repeatedly brought up saying that “under God” needs to be taken from its text. Even American money has been brought into question, because it has “in God we trust” written on it.

Persecution on college campuses.

If you know any Christian millennial that goes to a liberal college, you might have heard about how their beliefs are judged. At campuses throughout the country, outspoken Christians are regularly demeaned, debased and targeted for their beliefs. Many times these Christian college students will hear from others about how their religion only has hateful, bigoted, and privileged believers.

Many Christian colleges themselves also have been in jeopardy lately. Recently, some have been asked to conform to secularist ideology or they will lose their accreditation. Traditional evangelical schools like [Gordon College in Massachusetts](#) and Kings College in New York are having their accreditation questioned. Some secularists are arguing that Christian colleges should never deserve accreditation, period.

Persecution in public schools.

Just like many campus colleges, public schools are getting hit as well. Student groups like [InterVarsity have been kicked off campuses](#), and a teacher in New Jersey was [suspended for giving a student a Bible](#). A football coach in Washington placed on leave for [saying a prayer on the field](#) at the end of a game.

Prayer in school has been a topic fought for years. Students that do choose to pray, regardless if they are told to do so by their teachers or not, are typically looked at strangely by their peers. Teachers oftentimes do not step in during these situations, as they feel that they cannot touch on such subjects. Instead, they choose to censor all religion in the classroom, letting ignorance and bullying flourish.

How can you deal with persecution?

Unfortunately, persecution against Christians in the United States is not something that is avoidable. It is something that Christians will have to deal with and understand. The key to coping and dealing with the persecution of Christians and Christianity in the U.S. is our reaction to our persecution. The key to understanding and thriving through the persecution is in reacting as Jesus Christ did. Jesus did not seek revenge on His enemies but rather, He was called to turn the other cheek. When Jesus Christ was on the cross, He prayed for forgiveness for those who put Him there. We can do the same.

Christians are different from others of the world, and those who are different tend to get judged. The followers of Christ have been persecuted from the beginning, but we can grow and overcome the negativity. Stand up for what you know is true, share Jesus with others, and ignore those who want to put you down.

CULTURAL LEGACY

Christian Persecution in America

Nena Arias | February 8, 2021

The followers of Christ have been persecuted from the beginning. Countless people have had to lay down their lives for the sake of Christ rather than deny him. All but one of Jesus's disciples, a.k.a. apostles, became martyrs for their faith and commitment to Christ. Jesus said this was to be expected when he said, "*A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you*" (John 15:20).

A monumental book was written by Englishman John Foxe (1516–1587) titled, *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*. Next to the Bible, I would highly recommend every Christian to read this book. Every time I read it, I am in awe and highly inspired of how believers rather than deny Christ went to their death. Needless to say, when I read it, I am deeply moved even to tears and gratitude for the faithfulness of that caliber of followers of Christ that passed on to us the torch and the mantel of Christ throughout the ages. The book begins with the first Christian martyr, Stephen as recorded in the book of Acts chapter 7 and ends with the martyrs of the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century.

The history of the Christian church shows that persecution of Christians has been a constant. It has never let up in the world. Even today in many nations Christians are suffering and even dying for their faith. Their places of worship are burned. They are losing their businesses, their homes and even their families. Their women are raped and tortured even in front of their family members. A modern-day ministry that keeps track of this is *The Voice of the Martyrs*. They make sure that Christians who are arrested, interrogated, imprisoned and tortured for their faith yet remain faithful are not forgotten and they assist them in any way then can.

As you can see, persecution of Christians is nothing new. However, in America, which was birthed as a Christian nation and has established freedom of religion as one of its pillars for society, this has now changed.

We are seeing Christians, Christian thought and beliefs targeted by the God-haters in hopes to eradicate the God of the Bible and Christ from our culture. In our more

modern era, the fight against Christianity started to come on full force since the early 1960s when prayer and the Bible were banned from public schools. From that point on we felt the impact and statistics that had pretty much held steady on out-of-wedlock pregnancies, violent crime and delinquency, started to climb. We began down a slippery slope of immorality in every way in our society that has only incremented. Without the deterrent of God and his Word to keep people in check and responsible before him of their lives, actions and lifestyles that we knew were wrong began to be more “acceptable” in our society.

Needless to say, the disrespect for the Creator and the order of life he has established has been mocked and trashed. The worst part is that mainline churches began to cave to the pressures of this immorality and somehow have dishonestly found a way to embrace and try to justify this godlessness with biblical doctrine which of course is impossible because “oil and water” never mix so they end up only deceiving themselves and robbing the Gospel of its unmatched power.

As a result, the mockery against Christianity is the result of anyone who identifies with Christ. The general consensus is that persecution of Christians only happened in faraway countries but now we are seeing Christian persecution right here at home. Committed Christians are facing increasing intolerance in this country. We see it through fines, lawsuits, jobs lost, and the public disdain.

There is persecution in politics. Christian politicians seem to be the most attacked for their religious beliefs. They are subjected to rigorous scrutiny if they dare to voice their Christian values in their campaigns and on the job. They try to cast doubt on their ability to serve in public office because of their Christianity. Our Pledge of Allegiance has been repeatedly brought up saying that “under God” needs to be taken out from its text. Even our currency has been brought into question, because it has “in God we trust” written on it.

Anyone with traditional biblical beliefs that have been part of our country for years are labeled as close minded and prejudiced against all other beliefs.

In business, Christians are targeted. If [Christian bakers](#) refuse to bake cakes for same-sex weddings, or those in public office are refusing to authorize same-sex wedding certificates they are ostracized and their lives and livelihood is destroyed.

There is great Christian persecution in our college and university campuses. All beliefs and values are fair game except Christian values. The beliefs of Christian

students are severely judged, yet everyone else can say whatever they want without question. Christian colleges sometimes find themselves in danger of losing their accreditation because they won't conform to godless ideology. Censoring Christian thought only lets ignorance reign supreme and these institutions are only unleashing idiots with a college degree into society to create havoc.

Persecution against Christianity is unavoidable. We have had to deal with it for 2000 years and counting. Only our reaction to persecution should be like Jesus and the early Christians dealt with it. Let's live in the power of the gospel. Remember, *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places"* (Ephesians 6:12). Let us thrive in the midst of persecution. We are different than anyone else in the world, let's live in that power we have been granted. When you are different you tend to get judged. Never compromise God's truth.

CLASH DAILY

More Than A Dozen Examples Of Christian Persecution In America

Written by [Allan Erickson](#) on October 4, 2022

Christian persecution in America, churches undermined?!

Check out recent headlines. See a pattern?

- Elderly Woman Shot While Campaigning Against Pro-Abortion proposal
- Christian family ORDERED to believe boys can be girls and vice versa
- Christian Teacher Fired After Raising 'Concern' Over LGBT Book Read to Young Kids
- Walmart: We're Not Comfortable Selling to Pro-Life Ministry
- The military is ignoring the law regarding religious exemptions
- Culture War Erupts in Texas Town Over Drag Bingo Event Hosted by Christian Church
- Crime Against Pro-Life Centers 'Will Become Routine' Without Prosecution
- A federal judge ruled public prayer is unconstitutional
- H.R. 8404 effectively deputizes activist groups to sue religious individuals
- Christian School attacked for posting standards of conduct
- Biden's "Disinformation Governance Board" targets pro-life centers
- The Left wants the IRS to investigate the tax-exempt status of religious organizations
- Fired for His Faith, an Austin Fire Department Chaplain Fights Back
- COVID rule-resisting Canadian pastor criminally charged

If you're a Christian, America's ruling elites see you as the enemy

THE CHRISTIAN POST

Same-sex marriage bill opens the door to American persecution

By [Tony Perkins](#), Saturday, November 19, 2022

"We've all heard of people being cancelled, thrown off social media, even fired from jobs ... But how many years before a Christian minister [who speaks] on marriage and sexual orientation is reported [to] a government anti-terrorism program?"

For Reverend Dr. Bernard Randall, that time has already come. The chaplain of a Church of England School was suspended, fired for gross misconduct, and reported to child protective services simply for restating what the Church of England believes. If his story sounds like a distant outlier, it's not. Randall's nightmare will be every Christian's nightmare if our Senate passes the Respect for Marriage Act.

"I was doing my job as per the job description," Randall [told](#) a roomful of religious liberty advocates this July. Yet for being a Christian in a Christian school, he was painted "as a potential violent extremist [who] might draw others into violent extremism." This, despite the U.K. Human Rights Act that declares, "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion" ([Article 9, 1998](#)).

How long is it going to take for this to happen in the United States, he asked? "Is it under Biden? Is it under a second term of Biden-Harris?"

If congressional Democrats get their way, it happens now. Today, the U.S. Senate is voting on a bill that supporters are insisting is just an affirmation of the same-sex marriage status quo. As Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) tells it, his party simply wants to cement Obergefell's 2015 redefinition of marriage into federal law.

If only that were the case. Not only is [this language](#) light years more radical than the justices' ruling seven years ago — cracking down on parents, charities, adoption agencies, teachers, Christian schools, counselors, and Bible-believing professionals — the government would be declaring open season on anyone who believes in marriage as it's always been: the union of a man and woman.

As a former commissioner and chairman of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), I've seen the warning signs of this gathering like clouds across the Atlantic. As the mainstream culture moves further and further away from a Christian worldview, I've witnessed the hostility to moral truth creep closer to our shores. The West, once the safe haven of free speech and religion, is turning cold to the foundations that made our countries thrive. In a report released this July, FRC tracked [99 incidents](#) of government attacks on religious freedom against Christians or Christian institutions across 14 Western countries in the last two years alone.

What will it say in two more if Americans are considered fair game by the Justice Department for their views on natural marriage? Under this bill, they are sitting ducks — prime targets for government investigation, prosecution, even civil action. H.R. 8404 is a stick of dynamite that, in the hands of the Left, would supercharge the attacks, the marginalization, and the oppression of people of faith and anyone who believes in marriage as human history defines it.

Reverend Randall came to Washington, D.C. to warn America that this was possible. "My story sends a message to other Christians that you are not free to talk about your faith," he cautioned. "It seems it is no longer enough to just 'tolerate' LGBT ideology. You must accept it without question and no debate is allowed without serious consequences."

Of course, Senate Democrats insist the threat to religious freedom that held up the bill this summer have been fixed. That "fix," which is a few flimsy sentences clarifying that institutions won't be forced to perform actual wedding ceremonies, does nothing to resolve the hammer this legislation takes to everyday people. It doesn't protect the worker who doesn't want to be coerced to celebrate LGBT Pride Month. It's not going to protect the parent who says, "I don't want my children indoctrinated with this abominable curriculum." If anything, the misnamed Respect for Marriage Act will accelerate the persecution that we've seen in the last seven years to a level no one ever dreamed.

Päivi Räsänen learned the hard way that religious freedom laws are virtually worthless in the face of the secular mobs. The Finnish Parliament member [could still be sent to jail](#) for daring to tweet a Bible verse about sexuality in a country whose [constitution states](#), "Everyone has the freedom of religion and conscience." Like America, Finland is a European liberal democracy that ostensibly promises its

citizens basic human rights such as freedom of speech, religion, assembly, equality under the law, and property rights, among others. But, as Rep. Chip Roy (R-Texas) and I [cautioned](#), the Finnish government seems to have forgotten these core values.

How long until American lawmakers are similarly prosecuted?

My years of international advocacy include a powerful defense of the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirms the ability "to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practices, worship and observance." And yet, if that declaration passed unanimously, and 192 countries now recognize the exercise of religious freedom as a fundamental human right, why was a commission created to track the abuses of religious liberty? Because many governments give mere lip service to this fundamental freedom.

Case in point: few would see Turkey as an enemy of freedom until Pastor Andrew Brunson — who I escorted back to the U.S. in my role at USCIRF — was imprisoned for more than two years. In Turkey, as in Finland, the U.K., and U.S., the [constitution](#) is clear: "Everyone has the freedom of conscience, religious belief, and conviction."

My experience at USCIRF and around the world, for which I am immensely grateful, has shown me that religious freedom's greatest threat is not a military force that eradicates or suppresses religious freedom, although that has certainly occurred. The greatest threat are policies like the so-called Respect for Marriage Act being considered by the United States Senate. They are what curtails the exercise of religious freedom — which leads not to a violent overthrow of this fundamental freedom, but to its systematic suppression and eventual loss.

America must understand: we cannot promote abroad what we will not protect at home. Including freedom.

ADDITIONAL LINKS AND VIDEOS:

[A rabbi's warning to U.S. Christians](#)

[Christian Persecution and the Slippery Slope in America | Church & State](#)

[Christians and ESG: What You Need to Know | Church & State](#)

[Christians have no right to wear cross at work, says Government](#)

Christians do not have a right to wear a cross or crucifix openly at work, the Government is to argue in a landmark court case.

[Atheist Professor Fails Student Because of Her Faith](#)

[Air Force General Under Fire for Giving God Credit](#)

[LBGT Agenda Has Always Been a Means to Jail Christians and Shut Down Bible Believing Churches](#)

[Air Force officer faces investigation over Bible on his desk](#)

[Two Evangelists Charged. Tried. Convicted.](#)

[New Wave of Antisemitism Infecting US College Students, Hate Crimes Against Jews Hit All-Time High](#)

[Sports Star to Be Jailed 10 Months for 'Transphobic' Message That 'God Created Adam and Eve'](#)

['God's Not Dead 2' Billboard Nixed at GOP Convention After Being Called "Incendiary"](#)

[Christians "Should be Eradicated": Researchers Document Anti-Christian Agenda Among Powerful Elite](#)

[Veteran Oscar Rodriguez Forcibly Dragged From Air Force Ceremony For Mentioning God](#)

[Norway Officials Place Children Seized From Parents Over 'Christian Indoctrination' Up for Adoption](#)