

*They were on the offensive, and the Christians were backpedaling. —JTC*

## ~~~~~ THE TRIAL ~~~~~

**JTC** *The Trial* was written when I saw the Civil Rights Movement pushing “hate crimes” legislation, and I saw the writing on the wall. The concept of “free speech” becoming a “hate crime” could put a chill on the willingness of pastors to speak against homosexuality from their pulpits. Think of how “offensive” Jesus was, and what they did to Him when He said “I am THE way.”

This impacts Muslims, Catholics, Mormons —every group you can think of. They’re pushing their own agenda. But Jesus sidesteps them *completely* when He says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”<sup>1</sup> These simple words of Jesus tear out the foundations for their phony religions.

**DWD** You have talked about how, when you wrote this, you thought back to when a famous speaker started talking against homosexuality and she got denounced as a hateful person. What happened?

**JTC** We were at a CBA (Christian Booksellers Association)

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1) See John 14:6.

convention in the 1970s. Anita Bryant, a very beautiful woman who almost won Miss America,<sup>2</sup> was the spokesperson for Florida Orange Juice. She had made a stand against homosexuality. She was the first entertainer who actually had the courage to say something. This became a turning point in this whole big movement. The entertainment people all turned against her. And (believe it or not) it was pretty much led by the snide and ugly comments made by Bob Hope.

So *everybody* jumped on the bandwagon. And poor Anita took a beating. They dumped her from being the Florida Orange Juice Lady.<sup>3</sup>

And a group of homosexuals humiliated her at the CBA convention we were attending. In the evening she was going to sing. Just as the music began, the homosexual crowd upstairs started stomping their feet on the ceiling above us to completely disrupt the whole thing. She was embarrassed. It was odd back then to see these people finally coming out and making a major attack against *one* individual.

There was a gay demonstration outside. Some of the pastors came up to our little booth where we were displaying Chick tracts and literature. They cleaned out our supply of *Gay Blade* tracts, then ran out and started passing them through the homosexual crowd.

But I could see we were in trouble. They were on the offensive, and the Christians were backpedaling. Christians

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2) She was Miss Oklahoma in 1958 and 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up for Miss America in 1959.

3) Her contract was “allowed to lapse” when it was up in 1979.

were *pacifying* them, and nobody objected. I thought, “*Man, if we don’t make a stand, we’re dead meat out there.*” So I prayed about it, knowing these laws were going to eventually be passed, and came up with *The Trial*.

**DWD** So they first accused Christians of “hate speech” in the 1970s, during the days of Anita Bryant. Then in the 1990s you saw the widespread results in our country.

**JTC** Yeah, I felt so sorry for Anita. And by the 1990s I knew they were going to hit the churches and everything else. I saw that once these “hate laws” started, they’d try to kill the gospel if they could.

**DWD** I notice you had Muslims in this tract.

**JTC** Yes, because they were on the offensive, as well. You know, it seems today that *everyone* is on the offensive. This spirit of fear and intimidation has swept over the land. People are fearful of lawsuits, hate laws, and imprisonment.

Jesus, the disciples, and the prophets all ended up before courts. And they took a *stand*. Thank God they did. It’s time for **us** to take a stand. If we don’t, in the future we may meet each other behind razor wire in a concentration camp.

I believe that Christians—born-again believers who make a stand for Christ—will become as vulnerable as the Jews of Nazi Germany. God’s going to be with the Jews in the future. But unless the Lord comes (and I believe He will, with the rapture, to take us out before the end hits), we may have to face the world’s hatred.

**DWD** So, when hate crimes legislation trumps free speech

rights in our country, there will be nobody to blame but us. The information *was here in this tract years ago*.

**JTC** “Judgment must begin at the house of God.”<sup>4</sup> Unless God’s people repent and God sends a revival, it will hit us.



### WHY PUBLIC BIBLE READING MAY SOON BE ILLEGAL

Worldwide, “hate crimes” are being used to justify taking away freedom of speech. Look at these recent examples:

• **Is reading the Bible out loud “hate speech?”**

In Sweden, 64-year-old Pastor Ake Green was sentenced to one month in prison for preaching and reading Bible verses against homosexuality *in his own church pulpit*. Sweden had added “sexual orientation” to its “hate crime” law. The government prosecutor said, “Collecting Bible [verses] on this topic, as he does, makes this hate speech.”

The next year the charges were dismissed, but only after the entire case against him was broadcast on live television for all the world to see.<sup>5</sup>

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4) See 1 Peter 4:17.

5) For more on this and other “hate crimes,” visit [www.repentamerica.com](http://www.repentamerica.com)

- **Is drawing a caricature of Muhammad “hate speech?”**

Philippe Val, editor of the satirical French newspaper *Charlie Hebdo*, published some cartoons of Muhammad with the front-page headline, “Mohammed Overwhelmed by Extremists.” It had a drawing of Muhammad with his hands covering his eyes, crying, “It’s hard to be loved by idiots,” and two other caricatures.

The Grand Mosque of Paris and the Union of Islamic organizations of France quickly sued, claiming he had “publicly abused a group because of their religion.”<sup>6</sup>

That could have resulted in six months imprisonment and a fine of about \$30,000. However, even the public prosecutor recommended acquittal, seeing nothing “injurious to the Muslim community” in the caricatures. It took a full year for Val to be acquitted, after a two-day trial and a number of letters from intellectuals written in his defense.

- **Is calling homosexuality “abnormal and deviant” “hate speech?”**

Dr. Laura Schlessinger, a radio talk show host, was rebuked by the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council for statements made during 11 programs. Her crime? She recommended counseling and therapy to people who *wanted* a way out of their homosexual urges.

The Council stated that homosexuals are “defined by an innate or unchangeable characteristic,” and their sexual

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6) See “Modern Blasphemy” in the *Wall Street Journal*, March 21, 2007, Vol. CCXLIX, No. 66, p. A19.

practices “are as much a part of their being as the color of one’s skin or the gender, religion, age or ethnicity of an individual.” Because of that, they claimed that Schlessinger’s professional opinions amounted to an “abusively discriminatory comment” in the eyes of Canadian law.

Since then, all of Dr. Laura’s remarks about homosexuality have been cut out of every Canadian broadcast.

### WHAT ABOUT THE UNITED STATES?

I’m afraid it isn’t much different in the U.S.:

- **Is carrying signs and singing hymns a “hate crime?”**

As you learned in Chapter One, October 11<sup>th</sup> is now known as “Coming Out Day.” People are encouraged to “come out” and admit they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.<sup>7</sup>

During the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania “Outfest” on October 11, 2004, a number of Christians walked into the fray, singing hymns and carrying signs calling for repentance.

A pro-gay group called “The Pink Angels” surrounded them and used large cut-outs of angels to keep them from moving. Police responded, and arrested —*the Christians!* The perpetrators who spent the night in jail ranged from a 17-year-old girl to a 72-year-old grandmother.

They were charged with three felonies and five “hate crimes” misdemeanors: riot, criminal conspiracy, possession of instruments of crime [which: their signs, or their voices?], reckless endangerment of another person, ethnic

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7) These four are now grouped together, and known as “LGBT.” Note the sign on the parade float at the beginning of the Chick tract, *Sin City*.

intimidation, failure to disperse, disorderly conduct [must be all that “disorderly” walking and singing] and obstructing highways.

The total charges would have added up to 47 *years* in jail. Finally in February 2005 a judge threw out all the charges, finding “no basis whatsoever for *any* of them.” Can you imagine what would have happened if this judge had been a gay rights activist? And do you think 47 years is a *just* sentence for the “horrible, hateful crime” of carrying signs and singing hymns?

• **Is it “*not* hate” when it’s directed against Christians?**

On June 14, 2005, a Christian group known as Repent America came to peaceably protest Philadelphia’s “Gay Pride” parade. According to Repent America, this “city-funded event included simulated sex acts on one of the floats” and “partially dressed women bending over and being spanked by hands, whips and objects.”

But the gay activists were alerted to the Christians’ arrival. Philadelphia Anti-Racist Action called on people to block the Christians. Supporters gathered at the “Queers Bash Back” and “No Human Liberation without Queer Liberation” banners, then donned handkerchief masks and “surrounded, obstructed and continually harassed” the Christian protesters.

The **police**, informed of the lewd behavior and the gay supporters’ obstruction of the Christians quickly **jumped into action** and did... *absolutely nothing*. Evidently, **hate directed against Christians is no crime**.

What is it about Pennsylvania that brought about these two abuses of justice? In 2002 the state added “actual or perceived sexual orientation” and “gender or gender identity” (what gender a person *thinks* or *feels* he or she is) to their “ethnic intimidation hate crimes” law. Christians warned people that this would lead to the persecution of Bible-believers, but as too often happens, no one listened till it was too late.

Lately legislators have continually tried to slip “hate crimes” legislation into bills on completely different subjects, like national defense. The president could quickly sign these into law, *and the public wouldn’t even know until the ink dried.*

### **“HATE CRIME” LAWS ARE ABOUT SUPPRESSING YOUR FREE SPEECH**

As Robert H. Knight, director of the Culture and Family Institute wrote:

“Hate crime” laws pose a danger to civil liberties in three ways:

- They pave the way for suppression of the freedoms of speech, association and religion.
- They violate the concept of equal protection under the law.
- They introduce the un-American concept of “thought crime,” in which someone’s actions are “more” illegal based on their thoughts or beliefs.<sup>8</sup>

In the USA, freedom of thought, speech, and writing has

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8) See *‘Hate Crime’ Laws: An Assault on Freedom*, by Robert H. Knight (Sept 27, 2005). The Culture and Family Institute is an affiliate of Concerned Women for America, [www.cwfa.org](http://www.cwfa.org)



formed the basis of our way of life. Many countries do not value these as we have. But these “hate crime” laws threaten to take those freedoms away. And if the courts take away *our* freedom to spread the gospel and tell people what the Bible says, what shall happen to the countries with *lesser* rights and freedoms than ours?

We are already ripe for God’s judgment. Woe to us if we stop spreading the gospel for fear of some “hate crime” laws.

**We are here for “such a time as this.”**

### WHAT CAN I DO?

First and foremost, we must pray:

- Pray that God will withhold judgment on our country.
- Pray for the lost.
- Pray for our country and our leaders.
- Pray that Christians will see that this is a spiritual battle.

The devil is hard at work trying to take away our right to share the gospel and give people the good news that can transform their lives and change their eternal destinies.

Secondly, we must speak out, telling everyone we can that speaking the truth as found in God’s word is not hate.

We need to teach this to young people:

- Sunday School teachers can teach this to their classes.
- Youth workers can teach this to their youth groups.
- Boy Scout and Girl Scout leaders can teach this.
- Write letters to the editor and articles in other local periodicals.

- Start educating other people in your church. Start groups on the grass roots level to address this issue. To survive as a nation, we must have the right of free speech.

- Email elected officials.

- Pass out tracts to win people to Christ. Once the Spirit of God lives in them they will be much more likely to understand this issue.

For our nation to survive, Christians need to repent of their sins. "...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). Without repentance there will be no revival.

If we Christians lose our right to speak out on these vital subjects —we will have no one to blame but ourselves.

**...Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh,  
shall he find faith on the earth?**

**Luke 18:8**

### **IN THE PAST**

#### **USE A GUN**



**GO TO JAIL  
IT'S THE LAW!**

### **THINGS TO COME?**

#### **USE A BIBLE**



**GO TO JAIL  
IT'S THE LAW!**