

the  Venues
Go Deep

Shoot Christians Say
“Christians in America are Being Persecuted”

4.29.18

*When were you ever teased or bullied?
Who stepped in to help you?*

How could being a Christ-follower bring persecution? Are Christians in the United States being persecuted?

The “Public Religion Research Institute” discovered that the only group in the U.S. that think that Christians are discriminated against more than Muslims are white evangelicals.

Why the discrepancy? Why the different perspective?

Some people cry “Persecution!” when they see the removal of a 10 Commandments monument from courthouse grounds, or not allowing public prayer at a high school graduation, or saying “Happy Holidays” instead of “Merry Christmas.”

How would people who cry “Persecution!” feel if these public displays and expressions were Muslim, Buddhist, or some other faith expression instead of Christian?

What do you think of the following statement: “What many Christians perceive as persecution is actually fear of losing their privileged place in society”?

_____ *I never thought of it like that, but I agree with it.*

_____ *What privilege? Christianity hasn’t been showed any favoritism!*

_____ *Maybe Christianity has been given a privileged place, and that’s the way it should be.*

Other _____

Read what Jesus and others said about persecution:

Matthew 24:9-12 - *What causes the persecution? What is the “love connection” in verse 12? How does Luke 10:25-27 help us to understand this passage?*

John 15:18-21 - *What is meant by Jesus saying “you are no longer part of the world,” and that he “chose you to come out of the world”? What is the world like? What is Jesus’ kingdom like? Why would that create persecution?*

1 Peter 4:14-15 - *When is it “blessed” to be persecuted? When is it not “blessed”?*

John 5:16 - *Why was Jesus persecuted? What does his persecution tell us about perceived and legit persecution in the U.S.?*

The values of Jesus clashed with the values of the religious world.

How is that clash seen today?

Is it fair to say that Jesus was persecuted because of his love for others?