

# Christian persecution hits our state

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Over the past sixteen days, there has been so much tumult in the land. Although most of the unrest has been carried out by a very Small group of people, the media has cast its gaze in their direction and is seemingly keeping America under the grip of radical ideology. Most of us just want to move on.

There are a lot of other things to do in reaching out to poor people, broken lives, victims of various other crisis, and mending hurting hearts throughout our community. Unfortunately, there is so little honest reporting of fact and what is happening on the scene over the past two weeks that God's people are finding themselves unprepared to handle it.

Did you know that Bible teaching churches and Christians throughout the country, and other religious organizations, have been under various levels of assault due to their support of traditional marriage between a man and a woman?

Thefts and vandalism of church property, bricks through windows, and malicious threats of terrorism to various places of worship have been documented throughout the state and around the county, all in the name of same-sex marriage activism. Among the most dangerous, apparently, is to be an ex-gay and converted to Christ. That is the case for Pastor Jim Domen of Rose Drive Friends Church. His picture was published in the Los Angeles Times, Orange County Register, and The Chicago Tribune celebrating the passing of Prop 8. Unfortunately, publicly demonstrating a transformed life and helping others with better choices has cost him and his girlfriend severely in terms of vicious attacks of intolerance and hate. While everyone is talking about re-defining the meaning of the word "marriage", what is sneaking under the radar is the redefinition of the word "hate crime". People are carrying out such atrocious acts of anarchy while brandishing signs that might give someone the opposite message.

Some still dare to say that this is about love. There are many thousands of ex-gays out there just like Pastor Jim, some of which are my friends or members of my church. People like him are a problem since this very fact repudiates the myth of being "born that way", which is the underlying basis of any "civil right". Have you ever met an ex-black? An ex-white? An ex-human being? Of course not! But you probably know an ex-homosexual.

Did you know that a 69-year-old woman was threatened to be beaten at a rally because of her vocal opposition to this new social agenda? Some people saw on the news what happens if you show up to a demonstration carrying a huge cross. A woman tried to express her freedom of speech last week this way and had it ripped from her hands and stomped on. Even though she tried to communicate love to her attackers, most news broadcasts still tried to spin it differently. One thing violent protestors are correct on, this has become about rights! Your civil rights of freedom of speech, and freedom of religion, are being squashed right before your eyes and you dare not say it out loud without fear of reprisal.

I haven't even mentioned some of the biggest news of religious persecution of last week, and no, we no longer have to talk about Africa, Asia, or the Middle East. Welcome to the new America that a few are forcefully advancing and gaining ground. On the Sunday before last, in Lansing, Michigan, a large Bible teaching church that does so much to reach out to people in various needs and struggles, even including hosting a 24-hour help-line, was infiltrated by a militant homosexual anarchist group called Bash Back. At the conclusion of the worship in song, they all stood up yelling profanities, throwing

confetti, condoms, and flyers everywhere, two individuals on the balcony dropped a huge lewd banner, and some lesbians crashed to the front and began to put on a public exhibition of their lifestyle forcing all to see. They jumped from pew to pew and completely arrested the worship service. They brought cameras hoping to catch a congregant freaking out but none did. When the police arrived and some sense of order was restored, the pastor led a prayer for the salvation of their souls. "Could this really happen?", you might ask. This is just a glimpse of the news of the week. But this last Friday night it got worse.

A group of young people that have been praying and singing on the same street corner in San Francisco for three years was brutalized and terrorized. They weren't preaching, or even evangelizing, just praying and singing songs peaceably. A mob of around five hundred angry people came out of the bars and surrounded these innocents and attacked them. They pushed the girls to the ground, hit them and kicked them and doused them with hot coffee. The boys huddled around the girls to protect them as best they could until the police arrived in riot gear. The scene was horrific. [You can watch the video yourself on YouTube.](#) The crowd shouted profanities and threats against their lives, even to follow them home.

An on-camera pronouncement was made that Christians were not allowed in that neighborhood anymore. Worse, the ones that were removed were the victims, not the hateful offenders. If this is the picture of what they mean by "tolerance"; violent degradation of anyone who peacefully disagrees, I have seen enough. Did you know that our majority elected governor is fueling this through his speeches and has asked the Supreme Court to, again, overturn the people's vote? Is anybody still honestly asking the question about what is at stake here? Uh, democracy; a representative government that is by the people and for the people. For almost twenty years, I have been a husband of one very special woman; my wife. Californians learned this summer that every husband and wife is in danger of having this crucial classification redefined to Party A and Party B in a marriage contract. One precious couple fought it when they were not allowed to call themselves "bride" and "groom" on the marriage application. "What are we taking from you?" somebody asked on Larry King. The question demonstrates the profound confusion on what marriage actually is.

I hope this whole thing blows over quickly but what if it doesn't? Are you prepared to handle conflict in a way that brings honor to God in a new world where radical anarchists are targeting Christians? If you are willing to compromise truth and disavow the teachings of Christ, there is no danger. There never has been. Those congregations remain safe; at least for now.

I believe the most secure measure of all, when considering eternity, is to stand with Christ unswervingly. I am not talking about the Jesus that the mayor of Los Angeles described this week before a gathering of protestors, but the real One that is on the throne of heaven. "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7)

I believe there are many on both sides of the issue that can see their way to build bridges of conversation, relationship, and love. God communicates by His Spirit through love and sound reasoning of truth.

If you disagree with my writing but also do not stand with the tyranny of radical extremism as some do, or even the suppression of the rights of others to advance your cause, I would like to extend a hand of friendship in a spirit of gentleness, respect, and love.