Fighting Radical Islam

I hear all manner of pundit talk about "fighting radical Islam". They advocate, "calling it what it is"... "identifying our enemy"... etc. I have no quarrel with any of that. BUT... it makes me think.

Let's talk for a brief moment about what that looks like... fighting radical Islam, I mean.

Do we fight it with internment? Do we fight it with guns? Do we outlaw Islam, or maybe just outlaw radical Islam? I mean, really... what does fighting it look like.

In truth, radical Islam is a belief system. That being the case, it seems to make sense that it should be fought on that basis, namely, with another belief system. Hmm, let's see... which one should it be?

For the secularist, there are numerous choices. Since in the mind of the secularist, there is nothing sacred, almost any belief system would do to substitute, so long as it is secular; moralism, secular humanism, socialism in which all things are held societally in common, atheism, naturalism... we could go on.

For the non-secularist, or the religious person, radical Islam could be replaced with almost any peaceful religion (ironic, isn't it, that Islam calls itself the religion of peace?). Just pick one, for in the minds of most religious people living in our pluralistic, privatistic culture, all religions are equally valid pathways to god... if there is one.

But what about for the Christian? What is the solution to radical Islam for the true follower of Jesus? The thoughtful Christian knows that we can't just inter or imprison all people whom adhere to another belief system. We certainly don't want any government interring us for our beliefs, do we?

What about with guns and bombs? Can we actually defeat radical Islam with guns and bombs? That would require the identification of the "radicals", and that has proven to be quite problematic; for radicalism is rather invisible, until it's not; and then, it's too late.

So what are we to think?

We in Christendom will say – sometimes rather glibly – "Jesus is not the best hope for mankind, but is the only hope for mankind". Now think with me, loved ones. Does this not include Islam and therefore radical Islam, or have we been co-opted by the pluralists to believe that all religions are the same, and that all are equally valid belief systems. which all lead to god (if there is such a being)? Therefore we ought not insult this great world religion, Islam, by claiming that it won't get anyone to God.

No beloved. We do not believe that all religions lead equally to God. Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me". Jn 14:6

Just what does that mean, in light of Biblical reality and Truth, and what does it mean for our lives?

Rev. Peter J Haddad

Most who talk about fighting radical Islam have a belief that we can achieve "peace in our time"[1], but belief systems like radical Islam are in the way.

Let's ask ourselves. Will peace be attained by the defeat of a religious belief system; any religious belief system? Will one religion have to triumph over another or even over all others in order for there to be peace in out time? Well in reality, the answer to that is yes and a no!

Christianity teaches that there will never be peace in our time or any other time, until the return of Christ Himself, at His <u>second</u> coming. In other words, until Christ returns, there will be those who follow other religious belief systems, be they radicalizing or benign, evangelistic or privatistic, overtly religious or secular (such as humanism and naturalism)... whatever. Ours in Christendom, is to share the true Gospel with all individuals as God leads, prayerful that the Spirit of God will illumine their hearts to see the Truth of the Gospel, repent and turn to Christ to get to God.

What do we call this defense against radical Islam? ... radical Christianity.

Pastor

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1   Peace in our Time Speech given in Defense of the Munich Agreement, 1938 Neville Chamberlain

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