

# The Challengers

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## Summary



## **Introduction**

Many people think that America's next great faith will be Islam. This is not true. In fact, Islam does not come close to being the biggest challenge to Christianity in America. The counter faith to Christianity in America is Secular Humanism. Secular Humanism exalts mankind and the achievements of mankind over everything. It is the modern equivalent of the Greek and Roman gods. While the modern American would not fall down and actually worship a statue of Zeus or Jupiter, he is capable of holding the human race in reverence so highly that it amounts to worship. Nevertheless, Secular Humanism although it often partners with Christianity will not prevail either. Here is why.



## **Chapter 1**

### **Christianity**

There is a phenomenon that has shaped America in the past more than any other event; they were called The First and Second Great Awakenings. Between them was a massive decline in the Christian faith. This was the waning. The return of the strength of Christianity is made evident by a study of both of these awakenings.

An awakening is another word for a massive Christian revival. However, an awakening is a deeply felt and far reaching phenomenon. To call an awakening merely a revival falls far short of the mark. A revival usually affects those who are already believers. Generally, the progression is revival, movement, awakening. The revival affects the believers. The movement spreads the revival to many churches. An awakening affects entire communities and even an entire nation. An awakening increases interest in matters of faith. An awakening touches people deep inside and causes them to realize that they have a desperate need for God which leads them to experience God in ways that they had not known.

Out of an awakening comes whole new religious movements and groups or denominations.

The beginning rumblings of the First Great Awakening began about 1730 and continued for over twenty years. Strangely enough, it began among the Calvinists who were known for their staid and somber attitude towards spiritual matters. The leaders were surprised at the emotional reactions of the people when it came to their relationship with God. Not only were there extreme reactions in public meetings but the emotions continued long after the meetings were over. Furthermore, those who were touched by this strong presence of God began and continued to act like sincere Christian believers.

### The First Great Awakening

The First Great Awakening involved the educated elite and was strong in the Northeastern Colonies. The Second Great Awakening was strong in the Northeast but also in the pioneer area of the Midwest. It began in 1790 and continued past 1820. The reforms which came out of the Second Great Awakening involved nearly every area of life.

Some believe that there have been Great Awakenings since the Second one. For instance, there was one between the Civil war until just before World War One in the early 1900's. Still others believe that



there was another one later in the 1900's. No doubt there was some revival during those periods but none of it ever approached the power and scope of the first two awakenings.

In the First Great Awakening many cried out, some fell down, or fainted, some seemed to have fits. There was a great concern for the individual's soul. The concern for one's soul seemed to spread from one person to another almost by contact. Just the reports of what was shared in the public meetings brought to the listeners a great concern for their own souls. Sometimes, the Holy Spirit seemed to work in a calmer way but the personal awareness of the need for salvation was just as deep and long lasting.

It is stressed over and over in the accounts of the time that all sorts of people, young, old, rich, poor, educated, ignorant, whites, blacks, Indians, English, male and female, were strongly convicted of sin and became converted and continued to display their new character for the remainder of their lives. Throughout there appeared a great love for God. This love for God brought about changes as to how people felt about themselves and others and about religious matters in general.

In 1734 the awakening broke out in Massachusetts in the preaching of Jonathan Edwards. There are still hundreds of his sermons in print. He is best remembered for his sermon "Sinners In The

Hands Of An Angry God.” However, most of his sermons did not emphasize the wrath of God. The awakening soon spread throughout New England.

As serious and composed as Edwards was, he learned to put up with the noisiness of the revival. This led him to write a book about emotion in religion entitled *Religious Affections*. “Affections” was the colonial name for emotions. Edwards concluded that emotions alone could not nullify a spiritual experience nor confirm the validity of a spiritual experience. In short, emotions were not the direct work of God but the human reaction to what God was doing in the lives of people.

Another leader, George Whitefield, came over from England and preached all over the colonies with an enormous effect. Whitefield was a Calvinistic Methodist and he disagreed on several important points with John and Charles Wesley who also preached widely in the colonies and in Britain and were the founders of Methodism which was not Calvinistic.

Methodism stressed free choice on the part of the believer. Calvinism stressed the sovereignty of God which seemed to exclude free choice; one was chosen by God or not chosen and human choice was irrelevant. Whitefield, while being Calvinistic, allowed for human choice in the matter of salvation.

God, Whitefield proclaimed, was merciful. Rather than being predestined for damnation, men and women could be saved by repenting of their sins and embracing Christ. Whitefield appealed to the passions of his listeners, showing the joy of salvation and the horrors of damnation. He spread the Great Awakening from New England to Georgia. Benjamin Franklin printed Whitefield's sermons in his paper.

One pastor reported that when Whitefield held a series of meetings, they had not seen such emotions since the earthquake. Apparently, there had been an earthquake in the region earlier which had frightened and upset everyone. The effect of the revival with its conviction of sin was more powerful than the earthquake. The pastor went on to write that the request for God's help in prayer during the earthquake, strong as it had been, was for protection but did not include requests to be saved. But the revival made many people anxious to be sure that their souls were firmly in the hand of God. There was greater fervency during the revival than during the earthquake. After accepting Jesus the people felt a calmness in their souls. This was because the people admitted their sins instead of arguing with God about them.

The Colonial belief in this modified Calvinism which was the basis for the First Great Awakening in America laid a foundation for the American Revolution. The preachers of the First Great

Awakening reviewed God's covenant with America and repudiated the materialistic corruption of a rich colonial society. They reasoned that if the source of the corruption lay in England, a breaking of the ties with the mother country would result in a new America.

The First Great Awakening is credited for preparing the convictions of the people which led to the American Revolution itself. Out of a deep respect for the Golden Rule, citizen Christians became democratic and pressed for a free exchange of ideas including a free press. The movement of the 1740s played a key role in the development of democracy just before the American Revolution by preaching that the Bible taught that all men are equal, that the value of a man lies in his moral behavior and not his social class. By 1773 when battles over taxation without representation erupted, Americans were prepared to defy the British.

### Between The Awakenings

After the American Revolution there was a time of great immorality in the United States. Apparently only the institutions survived but not the experience in the hearts of the next generation. Between the awakenings America descended into a pit of self-indulgence and violence. Many believed that Christianity would not survive in America. But the Christian faith would return dramatically. God

delights in allowing it to get past, far past, the ability of men to make it successful again. The worse it gets, the better Christianity recovers.

There were about five million people in the new born United States of America. It is estimated that over 6% were alcoholics and many died each year. Sexual sin was rampant and there was an epidemic of sexually transmitted diseases. Theft and robbery were rising dramatically.

Between the awakenings there was a move for another revolution like the one in France which was based on atheism.

John Adams once said, "I know not what to make of a republic of thirty million atheists." This was because Adams, as a prime designer of the American Republic along with Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin, did not see a government "of, by and for the people" as being viable without the Golden Rule.

Christian students on college campuses could not let their faith be known for fear of being attacked. Students even burned down buildings.

Any rational person would have to admit that Christianity in America was a thing of the past. But God is not impressed with such thoughts.

## The Second Great Awakening

The Second Great Awakening began around 1790 and grew rapidly. By 1820 all churches had grown tremendously.

It began in Boston in 1792. This was because the Baptists started an ever growing prayer initiative. It began with just one day a month. These prayer meetings grew at a steady rate. Often entire congregations were converted. In the New England states all were affected in every type of church.

During the Second Great Awakening church membership rose sharply and the preachers came from all levels of education and different races. Many new denominations were formed.

There was widespread expectation that the second coming of Christ was very near.

The great revival quickly spread to Ohio. By 1800 the awakening was as far as Kentucky. It then crossed the mountains among uneducated people on the frontier. There was trembling and shaking, weeping and shouting. The revival totally changed Kentucky and Tennessee.

At Cane Ridge, Kentucky in 1801 as many as 20,000 people participated. This was considered the

frontier at that time. The growth in old churches and the creation of new churches stressed salvation as a personal relationship with Christ and not church membership.

It moved into Virginia and North Carolina and South Carolina, and into Georgia. There were large crowds and their buildings were too small. They met in fields in groups of thousands. Many observers were converted in large numbers and joined the churches.

The colleges were revived. As Christianity grew, the students became missionaries and expanded the educational ministry. The Second Great Awakening was partially responsible politically for the Two Party System. All forms of democracy were encouraged.

We can only conclude from history that no matter how weak Christianity may become as the generations pass, God will move to restore the next generation. And with the restoration comes a deep personal faith which is not dependent on the institutional organization often referred to as the Church. The life is not in the institution, although it is often bolstered by an awakening. The life is in the hearts of the people as the Spirit of Christ moves among them and upon them.

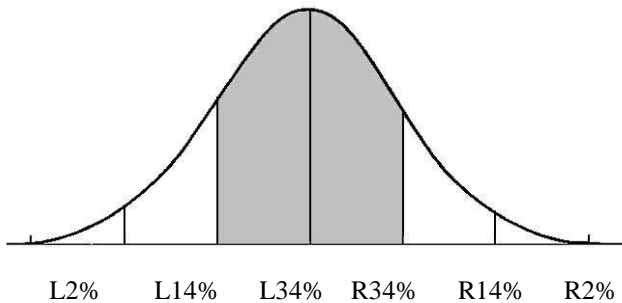
The strength of Christianity always returns but perhaps not in the form that we expect. The U.S.A. is

not the Kingdom of God. However, America's next great faith is a strong, revitalized, victorious Christianity.



## The Bell Curve

In order to introduce some balance to the current anxiety in America we shall resort to an old and faithful device known as the Bell Curve.



Statistics have no emotion. Only a small portion of any group is radical. Much of the concern about Islam in America today is highly emotional. The famous Bell Curve or Normal Distribution or Standard Deviation shows the normal percentages for almost any characteristic or group of people. For our purposes here we will use 34, 14, and 2 percent on both sides of the average which is very close to the mathematical formula but doing away with decimals.

The majority of the people in any distribution is moderate as indicated by the 68 per cent which is the sum of 34 percent evenly placed on both sides of the overall average. To each side of this is an additional 14 percent on each side. Finally, there are the

extremes of about 2 percent on each end. The standard deviation has been proven true in almost any characteristic or group of people.  $34 + 14 + 2 = 50 \times 2 = 100\%$ .

The larger the entire group is the more accurate the standard deviation. This is why it is called the **STANDARD** deviation and the **NORMAL** distribution. The marks along the curve each represent one standard deviation from the average which is in the center. There is a lot of mathematics used to produce the Bell curve but the picture tells it all.

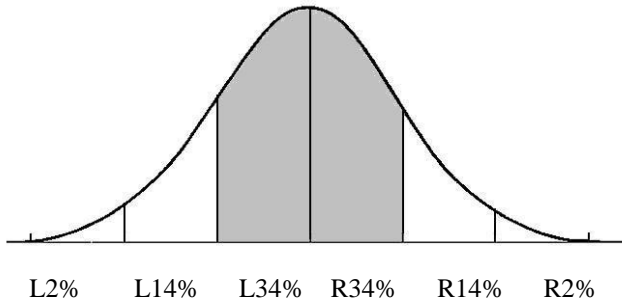
The same graph is repeated for each group for easy reference: Secular Humanism, Christianity and Islam. Each half represents 50% of the whole group.

The extremes, Right and Left, are each 2% of the entire group. These are the **EXTREMISTS** for both sides. Their minds are made up and they do not change.

Next to the extremes, both on the Right and the Left, is 14% of the whole group. These are the **LEADERS** of each side. They are not totally extreme but they are closest to them.

Touching in the middle are the Right and Left **MODERATES** with 34% on each half. Together they constitute 68% of the whole group and are definitely the majority.

Usually the more radical conservatives of any group are referred to as the “right” and the liberals are called the “left.” So, the “right” 2% of Moslems are extremists. The “left” 2% are liberals, probably the super rich among them. The same holds true for the Christians. The far right are legalistic, unforgiving and angry. The far left do not even believe in personal salvation; everything is a social issue. The 14% next to the far right and far left are considerably less extreme in their views and lifestyles but they are big enough and extreme enough to be highly influential on their half of the moderates. This leaves the 68% moderates, the R34% and the L34%, who are not interested in imposing their beliefs, such as they are, on anyone.



The Christian R2% are the Right Wing Extremists. These are the fanatics who are very legalistic. They believe that they know the exact nature of right and wrong in every situation and give no mercy. For them the Right knows what is right. They are intolerant of weaknesses in others. They have created their own monsters among other Christians by their superior judgmental attitudes.

The R14% are the Right Wing Leaders. These are the Evangelicals. This group has most of the beliefs of the Far Right but are more tolerant and more loving. They tend to lead the R34% centrists.

The 68% Moderate Christians are the L34% and the R34% combined. Theoretically half of the centrists, 34%, will have some right or left wing identification. These people are content with the status quo until it hurts them heavily and personally. They will show some loyalty to their church. They generally talk about “Christ” but seldom talk about

“Jesus.” They will get involved if they are personally threatened.

The L14% are the Left Wing Leaders. These people are looking for an “open minded” way to go and are opened to accepting parts of other religions.

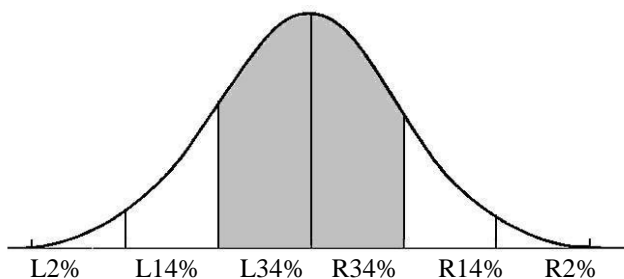
The L2% are the Left Wing Extremists. They are Christians in name only. Tolerance and social action are their areas of interest. However, they are very intolerant of their own Christian Right.

For Christianity to be effective the mainstream media has to be bypassed as it serves only the Left. In order to be heard the Right is obliged to use other forms of media. There are alternate broadcast and cable television outlets. There are alternatives on the internet. Something that goes viral on the internet can reach many. Radio is sometimes a neglected media which can be used very effectively. Plain old personal networking is often looked upon as being old fashioned and ineffective. However, once started it can spread at an exponential rate. Peaceful public demonstrations are still part of the constitutional rights of Americans. And, of course, prayer is the secret weapon of the Christian faith.



## Chapter 2

### Secular Humanism



The Humanist R2% are the Right Wing Extremists. The R2% Humanists recognize themselves as real Secular Humanists. They consciously and purposefully believe in Secular Humanism. They have studied it and are totally committed to it. They call themselves Secular Humanists. They believe in no God and in no afterlife. They test everything with the scientific facts. They believe that everyone should be free to grow. They believe that truth changes as we learn. They believe in ethics which must help everyone. They demand tolerance. And they want to build a better world.

The R14% are the Right Wing Leaders. This group will generally lead the Right leaning moderates

(R34%). They are aware of the tenets of Secular Humanism and will promote them.

The center 68% are the Moderates which consists of the L34% and the R34%. They believe in people and they do not think about this much. These people are content with the status quo until it hurts them heavily and personally. Thomas Jefferson, a Secular Humanist, is talking about them in the Declaration of Independence when he says, “all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.”

Theoretically half of the moderates 34% on each side will have some right or left wing identification.

The L14% are the Left Wing Leaders. They are much more vague about their beliefs. These people are looking for a “tolerant” way to go and will lead the Left Wing Moderates (L34%).

The L2% are the Left Wing Extremists. They do not believe in anything.

In America the Left Christians and the Left Humanists touch and overlap. In practicality there is considerable overlap with the total 16% (14 + 2) Humanist Left and the 16% Christian Left.



In all three models, Humanism, Christianity and Islam, The Right Wing Leaders (R14%) are the ones who bring about change within their communities and beyond.

In the religion of Humanism people believe that they have no need for gods because they are in themselves gods. Until Greece and Rome people worshiped gods in the shape of strange beings that were models of reptilian or animal life or a mixture of human and animal. Ra, the principal Egyptian god, was the god of the Sun. He was human from the neck down with the head of a great bird or falcon. Others had the heads of a crocodile or a jackal or a wolf. The gods of ancient Babylon had bodies like a lion or a bull or a snake. Some animals had wings like a bird.

Ancient Greece is the great head of humanism. All of the Greek gods appeared as men and women and Rome merely adopted and renamed the Greek gods. This was the final exaltation of humanity. In today's western world view characteristics of these particular gods of the Greek pantheon have merely been morphed into the god of mankind himself.

In the words of John F. Kennedy, "Our problems are man-made, therefore they can be solved by man. No problem of human destiny is beyond human beings." That is the great western mindset. Communism has bowed to it. Christianity resists it

continually, sometimes more successfully than others, but in the end Christianity will prevail. Islam will wear itself out hammering on it. The hammer wears out before the anvil. Neither Humanism nor Christianity will accept Islam including sharia law.

Secular Humanism is a prominent world view. Included in it are certain beliefs and convictions. Humanism requires that all beliefs be tested. Nothing is to be accepted by faith. Each person must consider any and all beliefs and traditions no matter what area of life they involve. After due consideration the individual decides which beliefs are the most logical and which ones will work for the good of humanity in general.

In Humanism the answers to human problems and challenges must be sought by critically examining each problem. Firm factual evidence and scientific methods must be used in these examinations. Also, every person and human beings as a group must be offered the opportunity to grow as individuals. They all need to be fulfilled and their creativity must be given room to grow.

Ethics are important in humanism. However, the principles of ethical conduct must be developed in the light of how much they will enhance the well being of all.

In humanism the concept of truth is constantly changing. There are no objective, permanent truths, no absolute truth. Only new knowledge can help humans to grow collectively and thus recognize the ever emerging new truths by which we live.

For the secular humanist only this life is important. The afterlife, if it exists at all, is not to be the concern of the humanist. We must strive to make this life better for everybody by growing in our understanding of the past and striving to live in concert with those who disagree. The final goal of Secular Humanism is to build a better world for all by the open exchange of ideas and tolerance. The good of all and tolerance are watchwords of Secular Humanism.

### “Enlightenment”

The European Enlightenment of the 1700’s brought the concepts of Secular Humanism to the forefront and magnified them greatly. The entire American system is built on the beliefs of the Puritans and the Enlightenment. Some may ask how these two systems of thought could work together to produce the historical American experience. The answer is not very complicated. In many ways the two systems have the same goals but for very different reasons.

Perhaps the most important example would be, why do they both agree on the historical system of

checks and balances in government? In the American Constitution the legislative, judicial and executive branches are designed to check the power of each other. The Enlightenment taught that power corrupts humans. The Puritans believe that original sin has corrupted all people. The result is the same for two entirely different reasons. Yet, the conclusions and the actions based on the different presuppositions worked out exactly the same.

This is clearly more than a philosophical position. Secular Humanism in itself is a religion whether or not its adherents call it a religion. Furthermore, it is a religion without God. It is a religion with no admission of an afterlife. It is a religion with no final, absolute standards of right and wrong.

Since man is made in God's image, humanism is the logical religion of mankind if they are to reject the revelation of The God-Man, Jesus Christ. Natural man is not aware that God's image within them has been drastically altered by the fall. Only the Spirit of Christ can reveal and restore the fallen image. However, the awareness of the image itself is still there. The desire to improve is also still there. The human psyche will not bow to a lesser god than itself if it perpetuates a continual losing game of self improvement.

Humanism believes in progressive self improvement but it has no desire to consider deity. Only Jesus Christ can ultimately satisfy. Islam, like Judaism, may tear through a field of brush in the flash of a hot fire but when it finds no really solid fuel, it will bow again to humanism.

Any religion, whether it is Secular Humanism, Judaism, Christianity or Islam which relies on the determination of the human will to carry out its goals for self improvement, cannot compare to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit of God which is found in Jesus Christ.

Islam cannot win even if Christianity does not refresh or awaken in America. However, Christianity will awaken and an awesome awakening it will be. Nevertheless, Islam will always run a poor second to humanism.

## Liberty

Liberty is the opposite of legalism and people these days won't even follow legalistic Christianity let alone fundamentalist Islam. There are too many rules that limit their freedom and spoil their enjoyment of life. Legalistic Christianity is as doomed to failure as its Islamic counterpart.

Only the grace of the true gospel of Jesus Christ is attractive enough and powerful enough to change

people's lives. The new sweeping force of Christianity is lives led and empowered by the Spirit of God without the suffocating trappings of legalistic religion. Only Grace Christianity has behind it the power force of the Spirit of Christ. Only the Holy Spirit can move people towards Christ and then motivate them and empower them to change.

People once accustomed to liberty will not willingly choose bondage. It may take a while for them to rally because as Jefferson said, "accordingly all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed." (The Declaration Of Independence)

## Finance

Furthermore, the world monetary system is partnered with Secular Humanism. The monetary system is based on lending at interest. There are several advantages to this system. In the first place, the interest collected gives banks the ability to pay part of the interest collected to its depositors. The bank keeps some of the collected interest to pay its own operating expenses and profit. Additionally, lending money at interest makes it possible for banks to supply money for business startups in the general economy. The small business man or woman is the backbone of the capitalistic economy because they

hire other people to work in their businesses and put money back into the economy.

Islamic banking does not believe in lending money for interest. The only way that they can contribute to the growth of businesses is by profit sharing. Once a business is up and going Islamic banks will lend them money for an ongoing share of the profits. However, this contributes nothing to business startups.

Economics as taught in the Bible and the basics of economics are really rather simple. Free enterprise is the best system because it works with the basic instinct in mankind to produce in order for mankind to prosper. The entitlement system is a dead-end street. Also, there is nothing wrong with charging a fair interest. In this way capital can be released to find opportunity for startup endeavors which provide jobs and strengthen the economy. Islam will not operate in any form of interest.

Political and social leftists believe that the government should hold and supply all the capital. The collapse of the Soviet Union proved the fallacy of this theory. A return to a free market system is always inevitable. People are not motivated to produce when they are on the dole.

American culture is a tension between the Christian culture and the culture of the Enlightenment

which brought forth Secular Humanism. The usual reaction of far right Christianity is that secular humanism is the sworn enemy of the Christian faith and of American freedom. For a patriot this is not entirely true and is the result of a deep misunderstanding by the Christian far right as to the nature of the American culture.

American culture is also a unique blend of Puritan Christianity and the Secular Humanism of the Enlightenment. Our very freedom and stubbornness is the product of this blend. It is what has made Americanism possible. Americans are by nature independent. They are also very inventive and are not afraid of hard work. These characteristics all work together in our quest of the American dream.

The entire concept of liberty itself is embraced by both the Christian and the humanist for different reasons. The Christians believe that the Bible teaches that we are entitled to freedom at every level of our beings. When the colonists revolted against King George III, they took as a standard the passage, “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” (Galatians 5:1)

The super spiritual among the Christians of today would tell you that this passage refers only to freedom from the Jewish ceremonial law or sin. The American fathers saw it as all-inclusive. The humanist



sees freedom as an “inalienable right” of human beings and the only way that mankind can truly prosper. Again, the same conclusions for different reasons.

If the Christian patriot of today wants to see liberty continue, he had best ally himself with his not-so-christian patriot neighbors. Liberty was not accomplished and carried forth from the beginning by Christian patriots alone and it will not continue unless, for the Christian, the love of liberty is second only to love of God.

Neither Christianity nor Secular Humanism trust politicians and both of them want to see the democratic system working. This requires free elections and a series of checks and balances in government. The Christians do not trust politicians because they believe that sin lurks in every person. The Secular Humanists do not trust politicians because they believe that power corrupts otherwise naturally good people.

The biggest hindrance to continued liberty in the American melting pot is “Entitlement thinking” because it produces a meaningless existence where people cannot affirm their identity by honest labor.

The strongest meeting places for the Christian and the Secular Humanist lies in their love of liberty,

their distrust of people with power, and their desire for the common good even though they agree for different underlying reasons.

The places of friction between the Christian and the Secular Humanist lies in the Christian belief in a supreme Creator God and the exclusive claims of Jesus Christ as the God-Man and only Savior. They also disagree on the concept of absolute values. In these, Christians must continually be assertive, confrontational and bold. Christians should form patriotic alliances where possible and absolutely insist on their religious freedoms when necessary. Pseudo Liberals are only liberal if you agree with them.

## Women

Liberal and Moderate Christianity and Secular Humanists by far give women the greatest freedom. Far right legalistic Christianity still oppresses women across the board. This is partly due to a misunderstanding of the scriptures regarding women and also to the fact that for centuries men have made the rules and men without the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit just naturally oppress women.

Jesus is the friend of women. The New Testament says in many places that many women followed Jesus. Jesus talked to the Samaritan woman openly and freely. This was never done in his day. Jesus honored his mother Mary from the cross by

assigning John to take care of her. A woman, Mary Magdalene, was the first to see Jesus after he was resurrected. The sisters of Lazarus, Mary and Martha, were close friends of Jesus.

Most American women now believe that they are equal to men. Along with men they also love liberty. However, since their personal and professional liberties are newer and fresher to them, they tend to value them more. After all, women did not even get the vote in the United States until 1920 and in many places equal pay for equal work is still not a reality.

Amazingly, nature will produce one half females and one half males when left to its own. China, for instance, has severely modified this because it sees a lesser value in female babies. About one half of the people in America are females. The influence of women should never be underestimated. Women from predominantly Islamic countries are not accustomed to personal freedom. Western women are accustomed to their freedom and they will not give it up.

Men should encourage women in every possible way to thrive as equals in America. Some may say that the Bible teaches that women should be subject to men. The only verse that necessarily applies to this concept is that a woman should be in

submission to “her own husband,” (Eph. 5:22) not to every man that she meets or knows or works with.

“The scribes and Pharisees brought unto Jesus a woman taken in adultery; and when they had put her in the midst, they said to him, ‘Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that she should be stoned: but what do you say?’ This they said, tempting him, that they might have a way to accuse him.

“But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he did not hear them. So when they continued asking him, he stood up, and said to them, ‘He that is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.’ And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

“And they which heard it, being convicted by their own consciences, went out one by one, beginning at the oldest, to the youngest. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus stood up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, ‘Woman, where are those your accusers? Has no man condemned you?’ She said, ‘No man, Lord.’ And Jesus said to her, ‘Neither do I condemn you: go, and sin no more.’

“Then said Jesus again to them, ‘I am the light of the world: he that follows me shall not walk in

darkness, but shall have the light of life.” The Gospel Of John 8:3-12.

Jesus not only forgave the woman with the warning not to do it again, but he dealt with the hearts of the crowd which had been taught the way of the Jewish legalists on the matter. He did not deal with the extreme right Pharisees directly here. One has to wonder where the man was that was involved when the extreme right was dragging this woman to judgment. Extreme right legalists are hard on everyone. They are hard on men. But, the extreme right legalists of any religion are even harder and more severe on women. The self righteous man is always ready to blame it on the woman. “It was the woman that you gave me that caused me to sin.” Genesis 3:12.

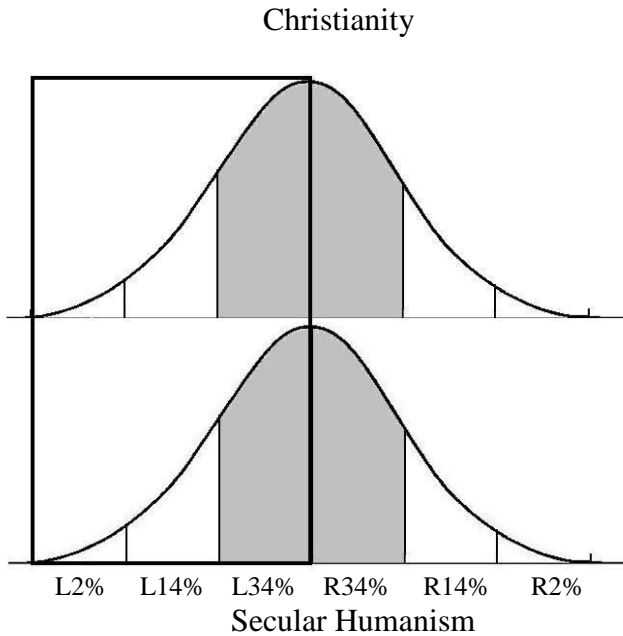
While praying for and expecting the next Great Awakening, it is a good thing for Christians to practice their sharing skills. The strategies discussed below are not the only possible strategies. They are merely suggestions. There are, no doubt, other effective strategies and where one strategy may not work in a particular time or place, another one will.

Since Secular Humanism is the actual counter faith to Christianity, the majority of the effort to

witness should be exerted here. It is the left wing Christian that identifies most strongly with the Secular Humanist.

Remember that the Evangelical Christians, the R14% Leaders, are most likely to reach out purposefully. Liberal Christianity and Secular Humanists by far give women the greatest freedom. There are ways to form alliances here as well. We should remember that the Christian extreme lefts' motive is the conviction that women have equal rights to enter the Christian ministry while Evangelicals who ordain women generally do so on the basis of calling and not rights.

In practicality there is considerable overlap with the entire Humanist Left and the entire Christian Left. In America the Left wing Christians and the Left wing Humanists touch and overlap. The Humanist Left and the Christian Left are the closest by long association and there should be room between them for meaningful dialogue. In this case the Left leaning Christian Moderates, L34%, will probably have the most influence on the Humanist Left wing if they can reach out and initiate communications.



Over 200 years of history together for Christianity and Humanism should leave room today for further cooperation.

The places of greatest friction between the Right to Moderate Christians and the Humanists lie in the Christian belief in a supreme creator God, the exclusive claims of Jesus Christ as the God-Man and only Savior and the concept of absolute values. A sharing or witnessing strategy is helpful.

Christians should be kind, assertive, and unemotional. Christians should form patriotic alliances with Humanists where possible and insist on

their own religious freedoms when necessary. Remember that Pseudo Liberal Christians are only liberal if you agree with them.

Do not quote the Bible to humanists. Simply tell the truth that you know from the Bible in your own words or memorize it from a modern translation that is easy to hear. King James English, sometimes called Elizabethan English, is the same English as Shakespeare and it is an automatic turnoff to many modern people.

### A Note On The Evangelicals

The R14% Christian Leaders are often the most motivated. They are further bolstered by many from the right side of the moderate 34% on issues of common interest such as individual freedom, personal Christian experience, the wrongness of abortion, etc. To the extent that purely doctrinal issues are avoided, more and more support can be garnered from the right side moderate 34% and perhaps on into the left side moderate 34% in matters of practice and living. For instance, the Roman Catholics and the Mormons will agree with the Evangelicals on being opposed to abortion.

The Christians should seek to ally themselves with the humanists in their love of liberty, their distrust of people with power, and their desire for the



common good even though they agree for different underlying reasons.

Evangelical R14% Christianity could engage Secular Humanism beginning with the Left Leaders L14% directly. They can take advantage of overlaps; the Golden Rule, opportunities for women, Intelligent Design. Also, Christians are not actually opposed to science.

In dealing with Secular Humanism another Christian strategy can be formed. If the Evangelical Right Wing Leaders 14% can motivate the Right Wing Moderates 34%, the right leaning moderates can influence the entire moderate center, 68%, and then seek to influence the entire Humanistic Left.

The Humanist R14% often have a massive general effect because of “morals” and “science.” Morals mean “decent folk” and they should be “tolerant.”

A sense of values may be a good place to begin. Both the Humanist and the Christian believe in values for different reasons. The Humanists want values for the “good of all,” and the Christians want values because it is pleasing to God and values help in practicing the Golden Rule. Therefore, some identity can be formed here.

There is a primitive intuition in mankind that tends to allow a belief in a creator God. It may be known as Creation theology or as Intelligent Design. Sometimes this is a starting place to enter into dialogue with a Humanist.

The most difficult gap for a Christian to bridge with a Humanist is regarding the exclusive claims of Jesus as the God-Man and only Savior. This requires supernatural help. To expect this help the Christian must be Evangelical enough to believe in the convincing power of a supernatural God, the Holy Spirit. Overall, the power to change which is supplied to the Christian believer by the Holy Spirit is the Christian advantage.

### Toward A Further Understanding Of Humanism

Secular Humanism came to America by way of the European Enlightenment through such men as Thomas Jefferson.

Since Secular Humanism is derived from Greek paganism, it is nothing new to Christianity. Paul in his mission to the “gentiles”, the Greeks, dealt with it almost exclusively. But he did not take his old Jewish legalistic views into this competition. He knew the belief stories of paganism. Paul delivered a famous message in Athens, Greece at a place called Mars Hill. Mars was the Roman god of war. Some think that the

reference to the “Unknown God” by Paul at Mars Hill was either a spontaneous leading or a lucky connection but it was neither. Paul, as a scholar of his day, knew the story behind it.

Generations before Paul spoke at Mars Hill, which was a special place for Greek pagans, there had been a terrible storm in the area. The gentiles of that time prayed to every god they could think of except, of course, the God of the Jews, Yahweh. In desperation they prayed to an “unknown god” just in case they had missed one and the storm stopped. From then on they worshiped an image of the unknown God.

Paul was quite serious when he said that his God was the unknown God. Paul’s God was certainly unknown to the Greeks. Furthermore, since Yahweh is the only real God, it was most certainly Yahweh that stopped their storm. Jesus, Yahweh in flesh, stilled the storm in his own ministry.

Paul’s knowledge of what was happening around him among the Gentiles that he was called to convert allowed him to link with them and be successful. Christians today can do this. They know the God of science. They know the creator of creation that science studies. They know right and wrong as proclaimed by Jesus. The Golden Rule, do unto others as you would have them do unto you, is attractive to Humanists.

Identification with common interests, albeit for different underlying reasons, can form a bridge to talk about a creator God and God made flesh in Jesus.

### Tolerance And Grace

It is interesting to consider how humanistic tolerance is the man-made form of divine grace. For the Christian God has paid the price for the separation of God and mankind and extended his free acceptance to mankind in Christ. He then instructs Christians to extend free acceptance to others in gratitude. This is indeed tolerance. It is a meeting place even though the underlying reasons are different. The Humanist wants tolerance because he or she believes in the world wide brotherhood of mankind without God. Christians can join with Humanists on issues that they have in common and still explain the reasons for their beliefs.

Just remember that conclusions come from different motives. Humanists only have their own will power to bring about change. Only in Jesus Christ do men and women have the power of the Holy Spirit to bring about personal change.

In order to recruit within the same religion the most successful tactic is to concentrate on those closest to your own position on the same half of the overall distribution.

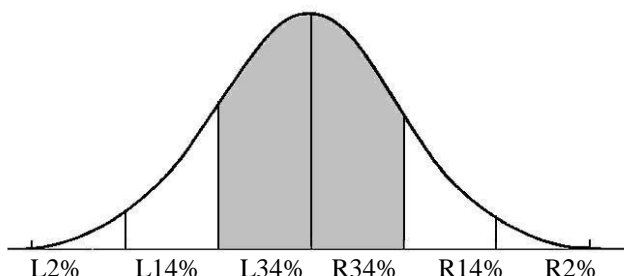
To witness to someone of another religion the process should be reversed. Concentrate on those at the left end of the curve in the other religion. The left or liberals should be interested in any and everything except their own right. It then follows that the right of one religion or philosophy would be the most successful in witnessing to the left of a totally different faith. Islam competes with both Christianity and Humanism for influence in America.

Internally, the Christian Right can influence the Christian distribution and then, in turn, the Christians influence others. For instance, the 14% on the right or conservative side of the curve will be most successful in the Christian arena if they concentrate on the 34% Right Moderate Christians. This is because they are seeking to win those who are closest to their position. If you combine the large Moderate center of 68% with the Right Wing Leaders of 14%, you have a total of 82%. If the Right Wing Leaders can influence most of them, then they have won the day. You can discount the 2% on the extreme so long as you can demonstrate that they are only a very vocal and/or very violent tiny minority. They lose their influence when their true sizes are exposed.



## Chapter 3

### Islam



The proper name for the religion is Islam. The name for a person who practices Islam is a Moslem. Islam is the faith. A Moslem is a person who practices that faith. The word Moslem is from the Arabic and simply means “one who submits.”

The R2% are the Right Wing Extremists. These are the fanatics. Like their Christian and Humanist counterparts they are unyielding.

The Islamic R14% are the Right Wing Leaders. These people will follow and support the extreme right and seek to influence the moderates especially the R34%. Their commitment to Islam is absolute.

The 68% are the Moderate Moslems. They are the L34% and the R34% added together. This is the large moderate Center.

The L14% are the Left Wing Leaders. These are usually educated people with considerable wealth. They can be wealthy or a part of the academic community in Islam. They may be called Liberal or Progressive Moslems. They are “worldly” and friendly. They interface with non-Moslems easily. They lead the L34% moderates.

The L2% are the Left Wing Extremists. These are usually oil rich.

There is no overlap between the Left wing of Christianity and the Left wing of Islam. While American Christianity and American Humanism have been living together for over 200 years, Islam has had no history of influence in America.

### The Influencers

In all three models, Humanism, Christianity and Islam, The Right Wing Leaders (R14%) are the ones who bring about change within their own communities.

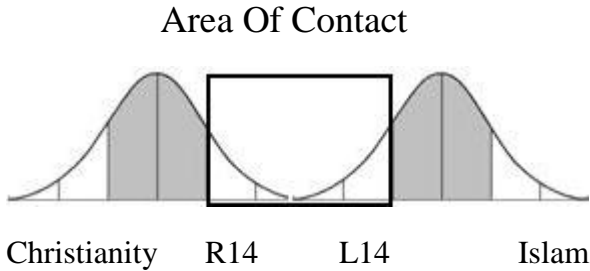


The beliefs of “Liberal” or “Progressive” Islam is similar to Secular Humanism. However, if a Right wing Christian is trying to win a Moslem to Christianity, he should not try to forcibly drag the Moslem to the right. The Christian has to decide if he is there to sow, water or reap and be content with whatever progress he can make. Often Right wing Christians want to “close the deal” instead of trusting God with the ultimate results.

Wealth corrupts all faiths and it has a gradual effect. The first generation person of the wealthy often has conservative leanings and has built his or her own fortune. The next generation who inherits the wealth will often move away from the right wing and become more involved in leisure activities and the use of their power. Christians may bemoan this within the Christian camp but they should remember that it also affects Islam as well.

Furthermore, Moderate and Liberal Moslems are more likely to believe in what has been called the “people of the Book.” The “people of the book” are Jews, Christians and Moslems because they all have Abrahamic origins. Moslems believe that the Jews moved beyond Abraham with Moses and the Christians moved beyond Abraham with Jesus. Islam claims, and rightfully so, that they are descendants from Abraham through Ishmael. This gives some common ground for moderate Moslems and moderate Christians to meet.

The Islamic R2% is always set against Christianity. Right on Right is a head banger. Left on left is irrelevant. And Moderate on Moderate is ineffectual.



There is no Christian and Islam overlap as such. Perhaps the Christian L14% to Islam L14% but the Christian left is not evangelical so it rarely reaches out. So, the strategy remains with the Christian R14% on Islamic L14% . But do not charge in and beat them with your Bible. They have a book. First develop a friendship and a life witness and then talk about Jesus. Although Isa is the Arabic name of Jesus, he is understood very differently in Islam as compared to Christianity.

Chrislam is a theology which seeks to combine Christianity and Islam. It is not an answer to anything. Confirmed Humanists are atheists, so it offers them nothing. The faithful on both the Christian and Islamic

sides can only consider it a travesty. There is no way to please either side with Chrislam. Both sides except the Christian far left will consider it to be no more than an insulting compromise.

There are common roots between Christian and Islamic people. They both stem from Abraham. Even before that they both claim Adam and Noah. Islam respects the great prophet Isa, Jesus, and acknowledges his return at the time of judgment.

Unlike Secular Humanists Islamic people have a very great concern for the next life. In dialogue with Moslems Christians can focus on eternal rewards. Remember that they also see eternal rewards differently than Christians.

It is alright to quote the Bible to Moslems after they invite dialogue as they have respect for the book. Treat your Bible as a special book and let them see this.

Monotheism is another good point for contact if the Christian can make it clear that the concept of the Trinity does not mean that Christians believe in three Gods. Christians call the three members of the Trinity "Persons." To merely call them three expressions of the same God is not correct. It is often hard to communicate that  $3 = 1$  but that is the essential truth of the Trinity.

In the final analysis the wing that can most influence the middle will prevail. And it is to this end that all strategy must be directed.

All strategies here presume peaceful means. Confrontation is not Conflict or Combat. The middle must be convinced that a wing is best for them and for all concerned. The Moderate center has some concern for the well being of all if for no other reason than finally the majority, if aroused, will rule.

In sharing your faith it is important to stress how your beliefs hold more promise both for the individual and for the group. Simple personal sharing is the the best and most effective way. Share how you have been helped and do not become hostile. The Christian will have to rely on the Spirit of God to press the point as only he can do.

***For the Christian the one single most important point of faith is that every believer can be assured of eternal life in a resurrected body merely by believing in Jesus. No other religion can offer this.***

Even a brief study of the practices of Islam makes it clear that women are not afforded the acceptance and liberties that they have with Moderate and Liberal Christianity or Secular Humanism

## **Chapter 4**

### **Confrontation**

Often we hear the excuse that Christians should be “nice” and not confront anyone. There is a difference between a confrontation and a conflict. A conflict often involves violence. A confrontation does not have to involve violence. Based on the presumption that the Christian believers should follow Christ’s example, we can ask if he is recorded as ever having entered into confrontation with anyone. What does “confrontation” mean?

When speaking of confrontation, a dictionary may say something like: a personal meeting between people of different opinions to compare their beliefs.

However for conflict a dictionary may use words such as a clash of ideas, a fight, a battle.

There is obviously a considerable difference between confrontation and conflict. Just because people disagree they do not have to fight over it. It may come to a fight eventually but people of good will should try confrontation before conflict. If there is a lot at stake, however, like an entire way of life, passivity is not acceptable.

Many Christians believe that to be Christ-like they have to be “nice.” The supreme example for Christians is Jesus himself. He was not always nice. He confronted. Important issues require confrontation.

Some Biblical examples of confrontation involve Jesus’ interactions with the Pharisees. The Pharisees were the far right religious leaders of his day and he frequently confronted them in the strongest of terms, “you brood of snakes, you white-washed tombs,” etc. This is not to say that all conservatives of his day or ours are evil but that hyper conservatives often sacrifice mercy and relationship with God and man for correctness. Conservatives do have strong values while hyper liberals have none; for them the end always justifies the means. They will lie freely and often to accomplish their goals.

However, Jesus also had some strong confrontational words to others including some of his own disciples. Here are a few confrontational statements of Jesus not spoken to Far Right (Pharisees And Scribes), Far Left (Sadducees), Very Religious (Priests), Or Politicians (Herodians).

There were two cities that rejected Jesus and his ministry. Jesus told them, “Woe unto you.” He as much as told them that they were impossible to convince and that something bad was going to befall them as a result of their failure to accept him. This

was not very “nice.” This was confrontational.  
Matthew 11:21

In another instance Jesus spoke confrontationally to Peter just moments after he had praised Peter for recognizing who he was. When Jesus mentioned his own death, Peter said that he did not want it to happen. Jesus then called Peter “Satan,” implying that Peter was allowing Satan to speak through him. Jesus told Peter to get behind him, that Peter was an offence to him, and that Peter did not want God’s will but the will of men. This was not “nice.” This was confrontational. Matthew 16:23

In another instance Jesus asked his disciples to pray with him just before he was arrested and crucified. They went to sleep instead. In anger Jesus asked Peter why he could not watch with him for even one hour. This was not “nice.” This was confrontational. Matthew 26:40

When Jesus’ friend Martha complained that her sister Mary was not helping in the kitchen, Jesus told Martha that Mary was doing the really important thing by fellowshiping with him and that Mary had chosen the good part. This was not “nice.” This was confrontational. Luke 10:42

When Jesus approached some disciples on the road to Emmaus and they did not see the benefit of Jesus’ death and resurrection, he told them that they

were “fools” and that they were too slow in believing. This was not “nice.” This was confrontational. Luke 24:25

Jesus was even confrontational with his mother when she told him that those who were hosting a wedding dinner were running out of wine. He told her that was none of his concern and that he was not ready to work miracles yet but he ended up helping anyway. He turned the water into wine. Lots of it. His initial reaction was not “nice.” This was confrontational. John 2: 3-4

Jesus came upon a crippled man and he knew that the man had been crippled for a long time. He confronted him by asking if he really wanted to be made whole. This was not “nice.” Sometimes people would rather beg and ask for handouts instead of doing their share of the work. This was confrontational. John 5:6

During an unpopular phase of Jesus’ ministry when many were abandoning him, he asked the twelve disciples if they were leaving too. This was confrontational. John 6:67

Once when Peter was acting jealous about the favor that Jesus showed towards John, Jesus told him that how he treated John was none of Peter’s business. He told Peter that he could show any favor to John that he wished. He told Peter to put his attention on



how well he was following Jesus. This was confrontational. John 21:22

Jesus also confronted Peter supernaturally in the books of Acts. He showed Peter a group of animals in a vision and told him to get up and kill one in order to eat it. Peter responded that some of the animals were not clean according to the dietary laws of Moses. Jesus told him that if he said they were clean then they were. This was confrontational and also contributed to Peter's understanding that faith in Jesus was for the Gentiles as well as the Jews. Acts 11:7-9

It is also interesting that Paul had a strong admonition for Timothy. He told him not to change in his attitude no matter how he felt. He told him to reprove, rebuke and exhort the believers and not to stop and to be prepared to teach them why he was doing this. This is clearly confrontational. 2 Timothy 4:2

It is time for Christians to confront more than ever before. Confrontation is now tantamount to confessing Jesus before men. Christian faith and values are being challenged everywhere in growing numbers. If we are duped into thinking that we have to be "nice" and not challenge in return, we are not being Christ-like. We are either misinformed or cowardly. Often a minority of atheists or humanists take control of an entire area while the followers of

Jesus do nothing. Christians will not get off easy if they do not stand up and be counted. We are promised that if we will not vouch for Jesus before men that he will not vouch for us before the Father. Mt. 10:32-33

Some may say that they are not naturally talkative or confrontational. They will say, let others do the talking and the confrontation. Speak up. Speak up now. Make your convictions known.

### How To Be Neutral

Many Christians, including Evangelicals, prefer to remain neutral if not in their thoughts certainly in their actions. Sometimes there is the mistaken notion among them that a person or group can remain neutral by “not getting involved.” This may be true for a time, but as things progress towards the left, both among the people of faith and the general citizenry, passivity will not guarantee neutrality. To be neutral is not the same as passivity or apathy.

As the allies discovered in World War II, Europeans seemed to be addicted to war. They have been at war with each other a large portion of their history since the fall of the Roman Empire. They even had a “hundred years war.” It has been jokingly said that there was no need to tell their children about the hundred years war since they were all in it.

A neutral country such as Switzerland, for example, has made a considered and deliberate decision to be neutral. They may decide to remain armed in order to enforce their neutrality and they consider their neutrality to be ongoing from generation to generation. They insist on their neutrality. And, as paradoxical as it may seem, they are fully prepared both psychologically and physically to fight for their neutrality. When this attitude is established, there is great prosperity among the people and humanitarian groups abound. Remaining neutral often requires that we fight for it. There are always tyrants who will challenge us.

For you being neutral may mean not being an Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Pentecostal, etc. Or not being a Democrat, Republican, or even an “independent” etc.

Being neutral often avoids conflict but it does not rule out confrontation. To be neutral does not mean that you have to give up your values. But it does mean that from time to time you have to defend your neutrality. From a neutral position you are *still free to share* your values and your faith. You are merely not trying to impose your values on others. Imposing your values on others does not work anyway, so why try to do it? Sharing values in open expression often does have value when the other person or persons sees the advantage of your beliefs.

Being neutral also leaves you free to speak to more than one side and perhaps *mediate* important and potentially harmful issues. There is a reason why humanitarian international organizations have their headquarters in neutral countries.

Being neutral often also *frees up some of your resources* that you may be constantly using to defend your views. Once your neutrality is established, it is more efficient to share your beliefs from that position.

Remember the old Latin saying, “Qui tacet consentit” which means "Silence implies consent." If you know that something is wrong and do not speak out, others will presume that you agree with the wrong.

## Summary

America culture is a tension between the Christian culture and the culture of the Enlightenment which brought forth Secular Humanism.

If the Christian patriot of today wants to see liberty continue, he had best ally himself with his not-so-christian patriot neighbors.

No matter how weak Christianity may become as the generations pass, God will move to restore the next generation. And with the restoration comes a deep personal faith which is not dependent on the institutional organization often referred to as the Church. The life is not in the institution, although it is often bolstered by an awakening. The life is in the heart of people as the Spirit of Christ moves among them and upon them. *The strength of Christianity always returns.*

All evidence agrees that Moslems worldwide are mostly moderates. The same would hold true for the Christian church.

Furthermore, Moderate and Liberal Moslems are more likely to believe in what has been called the “people of the Book.” This gives some common ground for moderate Moslems and moderate Christians to meet.

In order to recruit within the same religion the most successful tactic is to concentrate on those closest to your own position on the same half of the overall distribution.

To witness to someone of another religion the process should be reversed. Concentrate on those at the left end of the curve in the other religion.

For the Christian the one single most important point of faith is that every believer can be assured of eternal life in a resurrected body merely by believing in Jesus. No other religion can offer this.

For a Christian witness to be effective the mainstream media has to be bypassed as it serves only the Left. Prayer is the secret weapon of the Christian faith.

It is time for Christians to confront more than ever before. Confrontation is now tantamount to confessing Jesus before men. Christian faith and values are being challenged everywhere in growing numbers. If we are duped into thinking that we have to be “nice” and not challenge in return, we are not being Christ like.

Being neutral often avoids conflict but it does not rule out confrontation. To be neutral does not mean that you have to give up your values. But it does

mean that from time to time you have to defend your neutrality.

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America’s Next Great Faith is a strong, revitalized, victorious Christianity.

