

FASHIONABLE PAGANISM

Television commentator Andy Rooney took it upon himself to ridicule and bash Mel Gibson for producing his movie, *The Passion of Christ*. Another T. V. spokesperson aptly described Rooney's beliefs as "fashionable paganism." This poignant phrase is a most eloquent description of many of America's secular elite. Observing the words and conduct of many secularists of the media and entertainment world and their peers in government and business we detect the following:

- They have no substantive religion. While many will respond yes, if asked "are you religious?" and many would claim membership in some church or synagogue, they rarely attend and certainly do not allow religion to direct their choices and conduct.
- They acknowledge no moral or ethical constraints on their personal conduct.
- Believing themselves to be above the laws that govern lesser souls, they do as they wish, so long as it is profitable for them and does not run them afoul of the law.
- They refuse to recognize any standard or set of rules for personal conduct.
- Especially do they reject the Bible as obsolete and out of date for such as themselves. They scoff at the idea of a divine book and dismiss it with the wave of their hand.
- They have only disdain for those who do not subscribe to their views.
- They harbor intense hostility toward anyone who dares question or protest their hedonistic lifestyle. They are especially antagonistic toward those who would insist on restrictions on their behavior.
- They despise such old fashioned virtues as patriotism, life-time marriage, a father led family, discipline, civic virtue and taking Christianity seriously.

In our modern society, two separate streams of paganism are clearly observable. There is a lawless, semi-barbaric element. Typical of this category are the outlaw biker gangs, the hard-drinking road house rowdies, the dope-heads, the thieves, thugs and criminals of our society. All have seen them and observed their godless behavior. The second class hold similar a faith, but express it in a different way. They are sophisticated, generally well-educated and prosperous. In fact many of them learned their pagan life-style while in college.

They often are successful in professional sports, entertainment, government or business. They drink fine wine, champagne and cocktails. They wear the best clothes and drive expensive cars. They live in elite neighborhoods and have

friends in high places. They read faddish books by pop philosophers. They look down on the rest of humanity with disgust or pity because they do not share their social position or lifestyle.

Like a river that divides as it flows around an island only to reconverge along the way, these two streams of paganism have a common origin and destiny. It originates in sinful hearts filled with self-pride and rebellion toward God. Both elements are self-willed and refuse to recognize God's right to rule over them. Both are totally ungrateful for the blessings Jehovah bestows on them. One set dresses in silk, the other in denim. One prefers pickups or motorcycles, the other Mercedes. One listens to Mozart, the other to rock or rap music. Yet in their hearts both groups are kin.

Fashionable pagans could best be described as modern examples of the decaying remnants of the Roman Empire. Such folks are not the foundation of our society, although they imagine themselves to be such. They weaken our society with their pagan philosophy and social agenda. They have no concern for Western Civilization or America. They do not worry that their philosophy, if embraced by all, could cause the collapse of our society and civilization. Such pagans are unworthy of the blessings God has bestowed upon them.

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