

Not a Christian ... Or?

When is a Christian Not a Christian?

As late as the early 1980s, I heard someone described as a *real Christian*. Even then it was a bit old-fashioned to use that description for anyone who was very good and helpful (used, as it then was, by a non-believer about another non-believer). But today we have something much more complex, persons who claim to be Christian, go to church and pray, etc., and yet believe some things that many Christians might consider rather non-Christian, or again, there are self-designated Christians who do not in the least believe things that have been in the Christian creed since at least the Council of Nicea (ad. 325).

Recently, in opposition to the idea (believed by many Christians) that we live in a society that is increasingly non-Christian, indeed, anti-Christian (and this from the top down, starting with the government and legislature), I was told that the present British Prime Minister, Theresa May, was herself a Christian – so how could we believe in any kind of ‘official’ anti-Christianity?

So we have to ask: can any person who states that they are Christian, who practises the Christian religion, actually *be* a Christian, and are their beliefs, ideas, and vision of the world thereby Christian ones? Now, the Nicene Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the recorded words of Jesus, do not actually make reference to abortion, same-sex marriage, transexualism, which Mrs. May surely believes in the rightness of.

At what point do we say that, as those things are (we may consider) wrong in the sight of God, she, and thousands of people like her, are actually *not* Christian? Do we need a new creed, a new definition of ‘Christian’, which refers to a few ‘modern’ things, not conceivable in former centuries? Of course, many would believe that a new creed *should* approve some of the things not formerly approved of; or, it might be that we need to define new *kinds* of Christians (those who accept those things, and those that do not, (and who choose to separate themselves – and I fancy this process has already begun)).

Above all, it seems to me that we should not follow the error of the modern age, and fall over ourselves to be ‘inclusive’ *of all*, and be afraid of saying, No, sorry, you are not a Christian, despite your self-‘identification’. We have surely long ago accepted the idea that a Christian is not just anyone who is kind and helpful; now is the time that we have to accept that a Christian is not just anyone who thinks they are. Did not Hitler, infamously, falsely, claim, at least once, that he was a Catholic?

September 2018