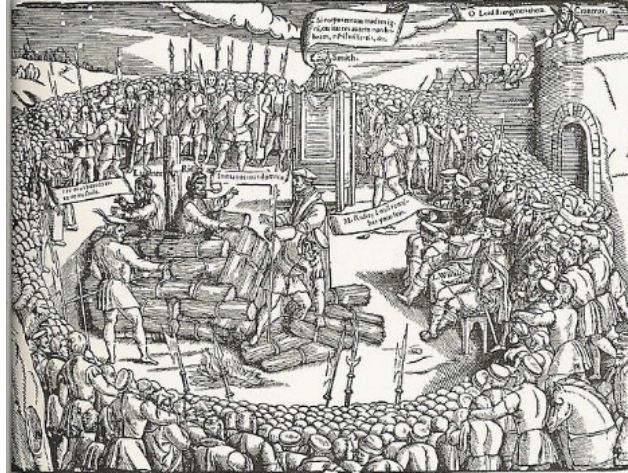


Conflict and Resolution



Are You Persecuted II

The actual methods of Conflict Resolution are many. It would be a peaceful world if a Resolution was attainable by the adherence to a recognized standard of righteous law, and an individual's desire to respond to such law separate and apart from personal and/or emotional factors. However, Jesus said, "That which proceedeth out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, evil thoughts proceed, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, covetings, wickednesses, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, railing, pride, foolishness: all these evil things proceed from within, and defile the man" (Mark 7:20–23), as well as the apostle John, saying, "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vain glory of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 John 2:16).

These truths have been affirmed throughout history. Solomon said, "Behold, this only have I found: that God made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions" (Ecclesiastes 7:29), and king David, his father, said, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works; There is none that doeth good. Jehovah looked down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there were any that did understand, That did seek after God. They are all gone aside; they are together become filthy; There is none

that doeth good, no, not one” (Psalms 14:1–3). As a result resolving, even the least of conflicts, may ultimately require unsavory actions.

The Conflicts and Resolutions depicted in the sacred writings can assist the inquirer as to various methods of resolving any conflict: on a personal, as well as a national basis. When a conflict arises there is always two sides to the story, and within each conflict they may both be wicked, but they cannot both be righteous, else they would be immediately resolved. One tactic, which we see in our society is an attempt to silence an opposing view, i.e., an offender desires to freely proceed with their activities, while silencing all others from responding to such activity, and thereby, in fear of being called a bigot, a racist, or a homophobe political correctness attempts to put a gag order on any that would object to the conduct of others. Just in case you are unfamiliar with the truth of this consider what took place concerning the apostles of Jesus: “And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, saying, We strictly charged you not to teach in this name: and behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. But Peter and the apostles answered and said, We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew, hanging him on a tree. Him did God exalt with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance to Israel, and remission of sins. And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God hath given to them that obey him. But they, when they heard this, were cut to the heart, and minded to slay them. But there stood up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in honor of all the people, and commanded to put the men forth a little while. And he said unto them, Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves as touching these men, what ye are about to do. For before these days rose up Theudas, giving himself out to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were dispersed, and came to nought. After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the enrolment, and drew away some of the people after him: he also

perished; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered abroad. And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will be overthrown: but if it is of God, ye will not be able to overthrow them; lest haply ye be found even to be fighting against God. And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles unto them, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. They therefore departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the Name. And every day, in the temple and at home, they ceased not to teach and to preach Jesus as the Christ” (Acts 5:27–42). There is nothing that evil would rather do than silence the truth. Why, glad you asked: “And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their works were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, and cometh not to the light, lest his works should be reprov’d. But he that doeth the truth cometh to the light, that his works may be made manifest, that they have been wrought in God” (John 3:19–21).

The recent shooting in Dallas, TX was placed at the doorstep of the “Black Lives Matter” movement. At the risk of generally speaking blacks are angry because the white man has persecuted and oppressed them. As a result of their anger it’s not uncommon to hear of killings, destruction of property, and demonstrations (some peaceful, some not, but either way, only the peaceful demonstrations are legal).

As I am not black, but do fall into the privileged white category, I have been attempting to consider the justification of beatings, killings, the destruction of property, and the general lack of respect for authority that is pervading our society. The recent attacks upon Trump supporters by Mexican flag waving opponents. The burning of the American Flag in protest. The homosexual movement that attempts to silence those who oppose their lifestyle through government mandates, and demand “respect” from those who oppose. All of

these acts of violence are being justified as authorized acts stemming from persecution, and/or oppression.

There is no doubt that persecution and oppression is a reality of life, but so also is truth and in the United States, so far, the Constitution uphold Freedom of Speech. The Neo-Nazi is allowed to burn the flag, an illegal alien is allowed to burn the flag, and all are permitted to say what they will, except those who oppose their vile deeds, then, it's a hate crime.

Let me bring my ramblings to a close. Do you think you have been persecuted, oppressed, and unduly treated in your life? Try this on for size. From 250–1945 A.D., these persecution came upon one specific group, on a large scale.

Expulsion out of a country 55

Forced Conversion 11

Book Burning: Persia, England, Paris, etc. 4

Property Confiscation 4

Burning of their places of worship 4

Stake Burnings 7

Enslaved 1

Religion Outlawed 1

Banned from Sea Travel 1

Massacred 12

Burned Alive 14

Pogrom (violent riot aimed at the massacre or persecution of an ethnic or religious group) 5

Rioting and blood bath against their people in Spain 1

Forced to wear badges 1

Inquisition Established in Rome 1

Mob Attacks 27

Forced to Wear Horned Hats

Public Torture and Execution 6

The libel of the “counterfeit coin” all Jewish men, women and children in England imprisoned. Hundreds are hung.

Rome decreed that Jews must wear the “badge of shame” in all Christian countries. Jews are denied all public sector employment, and are burdened with extra taxes.

Blood libel in Lincoln results in the burning/torture of many Jews and Public hangings (England)

All Jews were required to wear a “pointed dunce cap,” thousands murdered (Germany)

Jews of Hungary & Poland are forced to wear the “red badge of shame.”

(And you haven’t figured this out as of yet)

Holocaust 2

For 1695 years, not to count the two thousand years prior, these individuals suffered oppression, and persecution unprecedented in world history. And this article does not account for the oppression of the Chinese people, and others throughout history.

Point being, you will find none of these groups mounting a march, or killing, or destroying of property on the streets of our nation. Rather, they rise above their ancestral oppressions, and persecutions and press on making the best of their lives.

Josephus, a Jewish historian, had this to say of his people: “For it is no new thing for our captives, many of them in number, and frequently in time, to be seen to

endure racks and deaths of all kinds upon the theatres, that they may not be obliged to say one word against our laws and the records that contain them; where as there are none at all among the Greeks who would undergo the least harm on that account..." (Josephus, *Against Apion*, Book I, Chapter 8).