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Faith Bible Church  
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<http://fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

JEWISH APOLOGETICS (33)  
ANSWERING JEWISH OBJECTION #24  
(DDR #652)

**Objection #24: Christianity is actually a religion of hate not love. Its bad fruit proves that it is a bad tree, even according to Jesus' own criteria (see Matt. 7:15-20; Luke 6:43-45).**

Michael Brown's short response:

Years ago, some Orthodox rabbis told me that I didn't know what real Judaism was. Could it be that you don't know what real Christianity is? The fruit that has been produced through the coming of Jesus into the world—in the lives of his true followers—has been wonderful and extraordinary. Anyway, your reasoning about Christianity being a bad tree is faulty let me explain.<sup>1</sup>

The solution to the “root-and-fruit” issue is to focus on the root.<sup>2</sup> Take the Koran: if the Koran prohibited the advancement of Islam with the sword and forbade killing others in the name of God, and we encountered a Muslim who was killing others for the advancement of Islam, then we could conclude that the fruit does not match the root. The issue is the root and not some fruit that someone arbitrarily “defines” as good. One has to know the nature of the root before evaluating its fruit.

Take the flip side. Since Jesus Christ forbade the advancement of Christianity by the sword and the killing of others in the name of God, and taught that God is love (nowhere in the Koran is Allah said to be love), then anyone who claims to be a Christian who lives contrary to

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<sup>1</sup>Michael L. Brown, *Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus: General and Historical Objections*, 1ST ed. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000), see 109-16 for his full response to this objection. In this work, Brown lists the objection and then gives a short response, which is followed by a more developed response. This DDR series, for the most part, tracks the objection and his *short* response, after which you will find my comments. I highly recommend his book if you are interested in his longer responses (there is far too much material to include in the DDRs).

<sup>2</sup>I am thankful to Nehemiah Fischer for pointing out the need to focus on the root instead of the fruit.

these things is not, to say the least, bearing fruit of authentic Christianity. If a Christian attempts to advance the kingdom of God by the sword (as reflected in Battle Hymn of the Republic), we know by that fruit that its roots are not in true Christianity (by the way, the author Julia Howe was a Unitarian). The point is that when those who call themselves Christians (e.g. Roman Catholics, Crusaders, Lutherans under Hitler), commit atrocious acts of anti-Semitism, they are not acting in accordance with the roots of Christianity—Christ and the New Testament. There is no way someone can *legitimately* go out and torture and kill people in the name of Jesus Christ or Christianity. As to the argument that Christians are hypocrites, this is not an argument against New Testament Christianity. It just means that these Christians are not living in accordance with the New Testament. Again, it says nothing about the validity of the New Testament.

I am a conservative-libertarian on political issues; this is a natural result/fruit of orientation to the laws of divine establishment and dispensationalism. However, I cringe every time I hear a conservative politician using Christianity in an effort to establish peace/democracy in other countries. If there is a need to go to war, fine! However, we should never invoke Christ or biblical imagery of advancing the kingdom as justification for going to war. This is not biblical!—especially not according to a dispensational worldview. Look at what it cost us in the Civil War! I am not opposed to war. I am opposed to going to war to advance Christ's kingdom! I am opposed to America have a Messianic foreign policy as reflected to some degree in the War of 1812, the Civil War, The Spanish-American War, WWI, WWII. Again, the question is not if we should have fought these wars, the issue is that we should not go to war to establish Christ's kingdom! At this time I am not going to provide all of the Messianic/kingdom/divine-destiny quotations from our leaders as justification for going to war. However, I will provide one quotation from one of our greatest presidents, Ronald Reagan. (I pick him because he was so

great in so many areas, he was my favorite—however, doctrine must always come first!) As great as he was, he was seriously flawed in regard to his view of God’s kingdom. He was not a dispensationalist and thus believed that somehow America was a nation that could bring in the Millennium, the golden age of peace, prosperity, and brotherhood. Note his messianic vision:

The prophet Ezekiel spoke of a new age—when land that was desolate has become like the Garden of Eden and waste and ruined cities are now inhabited. Our dream, our challenge, and, yet our mission, is to make the golden age of peace, prosperity, and brotherhood a living reality in all of the countries of the Middle East. . . . If you take away the dream, you take away the power of the spirit. If you take away the belief in a greater future, you cannot explain America—that we’re a people who believed there was a promised land; *we were a people who believed we were chosen by God to create a greater world* [emphasis mine].

This messianic dream that the United States is a chosen nation, a nation with the mission of bringing forth the Millennium, the golden age of peace, prosperity, and brotherhood, is a delusion of grandeur—a delusion that Satan loves. We are a great nation. However, we are not God’s chosen nation in the same way as Israel is. He has blessed us as a client nation of sorts, but America is not chosen by God to bring in the Millennium—especially not through military might.

Excuse me for my extended digression—back to our Jewish objection. What we need to do here is to show the Jew the root of Christianity in the New Testament. We need to stress that Christianity came right out of Judaism (therefore if bad, then Judaism would have to be a bad root as well). Many Jews are totally unaware of the pro-Semitic nature of the New Testament. Many think that Christianity, from the beginning, is a religion of hatred for the Jews. That the New Testament is actually philo-Semitic would shock many Jews. It has only been in the last century that modern Israel has really accepted the validity of Christian love. This new phenomenon of Christian love has chiefly come from those who are dispensationalists—because only the dispensationalists believe God continues to have a purpose for the Jews because the

church does not replace Israel or inherit her promises. Prior to dispensationalism, the church primarily was Augustinian in eschatology (church replaces the Jews and will bring in the kingdom), and thus no place for the Jews in the plan of God. It is the dispensationalists who have demonstrated enormous love for the Jew, due in part to the fact that they recognize that they are still God's people, albeit under judgment for rejection of her Messiah.

Doctrine Matters!

In Him,

Undershepherd Don

Let's remember that we are here for the glory of God—to glorify God (stated purpose of God)

**Ephesians 1:6** to the praise of the glory of His grace,

**Ephesians 1:12** to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

**Ephesians 1:14** who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.