

CHRISTIANITY and ATHEISM

7. Un-Christian Actions

Introduction

Many critics of Christianity support their rejection of the faith by pointing out examples of Christian hypocrisy. James A. Haught, in his book *Holy Horrors*, shares this vivid account of one of the crusades:

In the Rhine valley of Germany, a throng of crusaders followed a goose they thought had been enchanted to be their leader. This group joined the army of Emich of Leisingen, a leader who said a cross miraculously appeared on his chest as a holy sign. Emich's group decided that, before marching 2,000 miles to kill God's enemies in Israel, their first religious duty was "to slay the infidels among us," the Jews of Mainz, Worms, and other German cities. They swept in unstoppable waves through Jewish quarters, chopping and burning thousands of defenseless men, women and children. Many Jews, trapped and doomed in barricaded quarters, tearfully killed their children and themselves before the mob broke in. (p. 20)



The list of past Christian abuses is long and varied: Crusades, Inquisition, Anti-semitism, Missionary Exploitation, Salem Witch Trials, etc. How do Christians respond when these abuses are cited?

Development of the Argument

Two Aspects -

Logical Response

Root Causes -

Hypocrisy, A Universal Problem –

Biblical Response

1. Should Christians Apologize for the Hypocrisy or Inconsistency of Their Forebears?

2. The Scriptures Address Hypocrisy -

Ezekiel 34:2

Matthew 23:27-28

John 18.10-11

3. Condemning Past and Present Errors –

4. Church Discipline – A Tool of Evangelism?

A.

B.

1 Timothy 3:7

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

C.