

Reader looks at tolerance of Christian, secular expressions

Written by Joe Krogmeier

Dear Editor,

I wish to commend Ms. Tomky for the courage she displayed in her column on Jan. 19 and will briefly comment on Mr. Wilkins' subsequent response to her column.

I wish also to recognize the pluck it took for Mr. Wilkins to express his views publicly and respect his right to do so. I would only ask the reader, and perhaps Mr. Wilkins, to consider whether or not it is really so offensive to publicly express your Christian conviction given the following observations.

It is difficult to convincingly argue that our society isn't tolerant of expressions of non-Christian faith. I am thankful for this tolerance and simply am not buying Mr. Wilkins' comments to the contrary.

Our society is quite tolerant, again thankfully so, of expressions of secularism; printing Mr. Wilkins' own letter being a reasonable example of this tolerance.

We are saturated with images of paganism through television programs and movies, with similar messages through much of the music we hear. We can easily access any form of debauchery and non-religious, non-Christian sentiment through the internet.

Celebrities, sports or otherwise, regularly flaunt indecent behavior and vice in public.

All of the aforementioned are instances of various expressions of competing world views being freely produced, disseminated and accessed in this country. Yet, when a professional athlete isn't shy about expressing his Christian faith, it is deemed offensive?

When a young person is inspired by the athlete's conviction and writes a column reflecting on

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this, it is border-line obnoxious and deserving of mockery? In our culture we are immersed in a myriad of world views and exposed to every variant of human behavior imaginable; yet, we single out expressions of Christianity as being offensive? That dog doesn't hunt in my estimation.

In response to Mr. Wilkins' final question, a bit of a sophomoric inquiry really, I believe there is quite an intellectual distance between expressing one's faith in Christ and claiming to be Christ. It seems there is much greater leap there than exists between a narrow-minded polemicist first professing faith in a humanistic secularism and next reaching the conclusion that he has the right and authority to limit another person's expression of their Christian faith. Maybe it's just me?

Sincerely,

Joe Krogmeier

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