

COEXIST?

May 12, 2013

Have you ever noticed this bumper sticker? Seven symbols are used to spell out the word “coexist,” but not all the symbols and beliefs they represent are familiar to everyone. Due to this lack of unfamiliarity, a little research was necessary in order to understand exactly with whom or what we are to coexist.

Each symbol used in the word represents a world religion that differs with the next one; so, is it possible for all these differing beliefs and opinions to coexist with one another? The greater question is, “Is it possible for all these religions and ideals to coexist with God?” Let us notice each movement represented by its chosen symbol and whether physical or spiritual coexistence is possible to achieve.

The religion of Islam is represented by the crescent and star. The Muslim’s holy book, the Koran, teaches that coexistence is not tolerated in their religion and commands that the unbeliever be killed when he is found (Sura 2:190-191; Sura 4:89). It is not possible to coexist with a religion that desires for all that do not adhere to it to be murdered! Jesus told Peter in the garden, **“Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be”** (Mt. 26:52-54)? Jesus could have defeated the physical world, but He taught, **“My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence”** (Jn. 18:36).

The pacifist movement is represented by the peace sign. This movement has no loyalty to any particular cause, but holds them all up as equal and is not for, or against, any belief system. Believers of this movement view all religions as valid, whether Islam or witchcraft. However, Jesus said, **“He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth”** (Lk. 11:23). The “hippie” movement is really a lazy set of ideals that prohibits one from taking a stand!

The gender equality movement is represented by the male/female sign. Do not be fooled, this has nothing to do with gender equality between male and female, but has everything to do with the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgender movement. This ungodly belief is strictly opposed in God’s Word (Rom. 1:26-27). This group stands against the teachings of the Bible and is the most intolerant of all the groups, next to the religion of Islam.

The religion of Judaism is represented by the letter “x.” Though they believe in the God of heaven, they reject His only begotten Son as the Savior of the world. The Hebrews writer plainly teaches that Jesus is God and the source of salvation (Heb. 1). He also told the Jewish Christians that if they returned to the Old Law they would be waiting on a Savior that had already come to earth and whom they were trying to reject (Heb. 10:26). The Jews are still looking for a Savior, but another is not coming to sacrifice himself for the world!

The Pagan religion is represented by the letter “I” that is dotted with the Wiccan symbol. Like any other false religion, this one will only put one in a place to lose his soul. Man has been inventing religions from almost the very beginning of time, but Christ still taught, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”** (Jn. 14:6).

The Oriental religions are represented by the yen-yang symbol. Confucianism teaches that one's beliefs are based almost solely in tradition. The apostle Paul could have benefited greatly from the traditions of his Jewish fathers if he had chosen to do so (Gal. 1:14), but he understood that the only way to enjoy heaven is to live faithfully in the teachings of Christ (2 Tim. 4:6-8).

The Christian religion is represented by the "t." How does God feel about coexisting with all the false religions of the world? The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to say, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men" (Rom. 12:18). In this statement Paul indicated living peacefully with every man, whether they are Christians or not, so physically the Christian is told to coexist with those in the world. However, our living peaceably depends upon those around us. Paul intends for us to understand that our behavior and interaction is never to prohibit peace, "as much as lieth in you." However, others can hinder peace, such as those that want to murder non-believers of their religions, like the followers of Islam. Also, God will never coexist, spiritually, with any other religion, and He has commanded that His message be taught to all in the world (Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16). God's message will not bring peace but division because most will not accept what He has taught to mankind through His Son.

It is possible to coexist physically with others if they will agree to do so. However, it is impossible to coexist and have fellowship with people that ignore the teachings of the Bible in a spiritual sense, and God does not want us to do that. Jesus said, "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).