

“Cloak of religion” (*Hawaii Tribune-Herald*, Dec. 23, 2020, A4)

After 9-11, all over our country people came together in interfaith services and advocated the ideal of love which actually bridges religions universally. This is often no longer the case today because there are too many Churches (not religions) that have become politicized and racialized, actually belying their own fundamental scriptures. Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia are on the rise everywhere, which begs the question, as already well addressed by Associate Press writer Elana Schor in her story Dec. 18, 2020 (“Church vandalism exposes divisions over faith, politics,” *Tribune-Herald*, Religion), how authentic the adherents especially of white evangelical Churches really are and whether they would pass the litmus-test of hypocrisy. Fighting against BLM and black Christian (!) churches in the name of whom?! Disrespecting and hurting members of other religions as an expression of what religious ideal? Claiming to be a pro-lifer but denying young mothers social support once the baby has been born amounts to an ugly lie since they are only pro-birthers and apparently want to suppress women at large.

I know that there are many really good Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, etc. But I also know that there are really bad ones, as happens at times in larger families. Unfortunately, those white Christians demonstrating in the streets of D.C. have obviously never had a chance or willingness to read the New Testament. Similarly, Islamic terrorists have apparently only a myopic, badly confused understanding of the Quran. Anyone who claims to be religious and to subscribe to a faith, but then resorts to prejudice, racism, fanaticism, and even violence, as happens today just too many time, cannot really claim to be a religious person, but uses a religious cloak in order to hide his/her fascist attitudes. No wonder outgoing Pres. Trump supports and salutes such people.

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