



*An initiative of WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL*

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

## Is God Negative?

Dear Pastor,

Have you ever heard someone say: “Christians are better known for what they are against than for what they are for”? Is that accurate? Fair? And is it a legitimate cause for concern? Do you think the average unbeliever views God as negative? A Cosmic taskmaster who enjoys making our lives miserable? How are Christians viewed and how is our message of the gospel viewed? We definitely think this is worth reflecting on. It certainly is possible for a ministry to get out of balance and focus on everything that is wrong with the world when there is—in fact—so much wrong with the world.

**But is it really a bad thing if we are known for what we are against?** After all, when you read the 10 commandments, there are quite a few negatives there. Interestingly, those negatives are all summarized under two positive headings: Love God supremely and love your neighbor as yourself (Mk. 12:30-3). It seems to us that if we are going to be known by what are for, it is inevitable that we are also going to be known for what we are against.

To illustrate, the mission of Wisconsin Family Council is stated very positively: strengthening, preserving, and promoting God’s plan for marriage and family, the sanctity of human life, and religious liberty. Marriage, family, life and liberty—four positive things, and they are what we want to be known for as an organization. But being known for them inevitably results in being known as being against some things.

For instance, because of what we believe positively, we necessarily also believe same sex “marriage” is wrong, that pre-marital sex is wrong, that abortion is wrong, that euthanasia is wrong, that physician assisted suicide is wrong and that government has no business passing laws to the contrary or attacking Christian churches, ministries or businesses for holding to these positions.

This positive-negative set-up is true of everyone, not just Christians!

The perception that God—and His followers—are negative is a warped perception. Let’s do what we can to bring correction to that warped perception. At the same time, we cannot expect unbelievers to value or appreciate our positive message (Cf. Tit. 3:3 and Eph. 4:17-19). **The good news of the gospel is good news precisely because of the bad news of sin.**

The world may twist our positive beliefs into a negative criticism, but so be it. Isn’t that just the reality of the Christian life? If we are known for what we are for, we are also going to be known for what we are against. Just look at the sin lists in the NT! The problem isn’t with God or our message. The problem, sadly, is with those who resent and resist the truth of the gospel.

Instead of being embarrassed by being known for what we are against, let’s embrace this, while at the same time emphasizing whenever we can, in whatever way we can, that we are for the things God is for while we are indeed against the things that God is against—because we love God and love people.

In the final analysis, the world’s complaint is not against us, but against a good and loving God who wants what is best for His creation, whether they recognize it or not (Cf. Jn. 1:11). God is not negative. He is awesomely, incredibly positive.

In Christ,



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PS: The upcoming State Supreme Court race is, we think, even more important and crucial than the governor’s race this last fall. We have prepared an election resource kit that you may access [HERE](#). We invite and encourage you to give these resources a look. They are non-partisan and can be used by any 501c3 ministry. We especially encourage you to utilize the educational Voter Information Publication to help your people understand who the Supreme Court candidates are. We welcome your



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feedback on these resources.

PPS: Registration for LEAD Wisconsin, WFC's premier worldview and leadership camp for teens, is in full swing. We encourage you to have your teens consider participating in this outstanding week of camp. For details, click [HERE](#).

PPPS: To access a simple, but helpful, 4 point argument for the pro-life position, click [HERE](#).