
Subject: Re: don't ask don't tell
Posted by [Spoony](#) on Tue, 11 Jan 2011 14:56:31 GMT
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CarrierII wrote on Tue, 11 January 2011 08:35Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 January 2011 13:02CarrierII wrote on Tue, 11 January 2011 03:58From the perspective of those who hold faith, atheists attempting to enforce secularism is, I'm sure, obnoxious. Yes, for exactly the same reason that from a dictator's perspective, democracy and those who insist upon it are "obnoxious". EXACTLY the same reason.

Doesn't stop it causing offense, I never claimed it was a reason to stop enforcing state secularism. offending dictators and theocrats is usually a sign that you're doing something right

Quote:Quote:

Quote:Does it help if I phrase it as "Your God, or insistance upon a lack thereof,"?
No; if there really was a god I'd still be very firmly in favour of secular democracy.

A hypothetical God might not be in favour of secularism, but that's an entire discussion of its own. yes, we can have it very quickly

1. prove there's a god
2. prove that what this god wants is what the holy book says he wants
3. explain why his wishes trump democracy

nobody's done the first one never mind all three

Quote:Faith is the belief in something. We speak of "faith in humanity", for instance. i was talking about the most common usage of the word "faith". if you meant a general positive opinion instead then that's obviously an entirely different question.

Quote:Not from your perspective, doesn't make your perspective (IE, secularism) the best (or indeed, worst) option from someone else's perspective, though. a secular democracy is the best option for everybody. religious countries are only good for a small minority of one particular religion, and bad for everybody else - including, usually, many people from that religion.

Quote:I have several Christian friends who keep their faith to themselves, and have never once asserted to myself, nor anyone else, as far as I'm aware, that non-believers will be "tortured", or otherwise persecuted or punished.

If they haven't said so, has it occurred to you to wonder if they think so? If I thought a fellow human being was in danger of being tortured, the very least I'd do is warn them - even if it was someone I didn't like. Friends?

Quote:Once again, it's the "being obnoxious" thing - forcibly telling people they will "go to hell" if they don't believe is wrong. (Free speech otherwise protects them. If they wish to post stupid billboards, that's fine. We can all have a good laugh)

Free speech protects them? I assume you mean it also protects someone calling in a bomb

threat, for example, or any conman who lies to you to get your money, or someone who tells you he'll kick your ass if you don't hand over your wallet. Does the word "coercion" mean anything to you?

Quote:Implying that all faith is as bad as heroin. Again, needing to distinguish between harmless faith (eg: attending church) and harmful faith (eg: encouraging radicalisation of communities, children etc).

I didn't compare heroin to 'faith', I compared it to hell. This comparison is unfair to heroin; heroin is absolutely nowhere near as bad as hell.

Quote:Faith that some people wanted me to be alive stopped me killing myself. I can't prove my worth to them, to myself, but it stopped me.

Did you have a good reason to think that? I'm not asking for lab results, I'm asking did you have a good reason to think "these people wanted me to be alive"; if not, why did you think it?
