

---

Subject: Re: don't ask don't tell

Posted by [CarrierII](#) on Tue, 11 Jan 2011 16:38:26 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Spoony wrote on Tue, 11 January 2011 14:56CarrierII 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

Only right in your opinion, that your opinion maybe more justifiable is of little difference to those who care neither for your opinion nor the justification. (That's not me, incidentally, I'm merely pointing out that a lot of people who live in religious states like it. Sure, some people don't like it, and the humanitarian record isn't good either)

Quote:

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

The hypothetical God in the scenario I created with that sentence isn't about holy books and proof. He's more about using lightning bolts on people he doesn't like. It was a joke, hence the ":d" smiley.

I see where the confusion came from (my lack of an editor) - Let me try again: In a hypothetical world with a powerful deity that certifiably exists - secularism may not be the best option in terms of long term survival (due to aforementioned lightning bolts).

Quote:

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.

Having a generally positive opinion about a species hardwired for selfishness (due to evolution, struggle to survive etc) is hard, thus it requires a belief people can act better than their worst - that is having "faith in humanity" - not having "faith in humanity" is feeling that all people will be selfish etc.

Quote:

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.

Not in the opinion of those who benefit from a non-secular arrangement.

Quote:

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?

If they do think so, I'm not too scared of what someone else thinks (or says, until their speech goes from a general threat to a specific one) - to be paranoid of what other people's thoughts are is a shortcut to madness, for you will never be able to tell what others are thinking. The good news is it doesn't matter, until their thoughts become actions, they can't touch you. This isn't "Inception" (which is a good movie).

Quote:

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?

See the word "forcibly" in italics? We're on the same page. (I don't find a written message at all scary, unless the threat is specific - I don't think we'll ever see billboards insisting that a "Mr J. Smith" of <some address> must convert or we'll attack him", not least because the paper trail will easily lead to the people who had it displayed)

Quote:

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.

Perhaps my fault for not being clear: when I said "... find a lack of hellfire scary", I meant the whole afterlife shebang that religions like to peddle - death scares a lot of people, with good reason, it's very damn scary.

Edit: Expanding upon this point: these people also can't see how a world could work without threats like eternal damnation to keep people from misbehaving.

Quote:

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?

See reborn's post. I'm glad you display that much compassion towards your fellow man. One of the nice things about my Christian friends is the amount of compassion they have, which they assure me is related to their faith...

---