

Superstitious Christians?

In 1892, a very superstitious man named Adam Heidt had a series of negative things happen to him. His mother-in-law had been killed, his crops failed, and he became ill. Heidt, a German immigrant, believed that another German immigrant named George Markart had put a hex on him by patting him on the back three times. Heidt concluded that Markart was a “hexmaster” who was responsible for all the bad things going on in Heidt’s life.

So Heidt, believing that hexmasters lose their power over running water, walked Markart to Jefferson’s Stone Arch Bridge near Jeffersonville, New York. Heidt’s son shot Markart 5 times, then Heidt stabbed Markart repeatedly, then they beat him with his own walking cane and threw his body in the river. (Both Heidt and his son were quickly convicted of the murder. *All this evil happened specifically because of nonsensical, irrational beliefs based in superstition.*

Still today, in the “crazy but true” department, we find a weird situation that should never exist: superstitious Christians! I suppose it is not totally surprising, since faithful Christians believe in:

- a spiritual realm that actually exists (just not in the physical realm)
- spirit beings that are here to help God’s people (Hebrews 12:1)
- an all-powerful, holy God who created the universe from nothing
(Gen. 1; Heb. 11:3; Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:16; Col. 2:3:5, Rom. 4:17; et al)
- spiritual life after human death.

But the Bible, God’s word, stands in stark contrast to superstitions, and His faithful followers must never allow themselves to have superstitious beliefs. Superstitions are in an entirely different realm than true Christianity. Mirriam Webster’s dictionary defines “superstition” as, ***“a belief or practice from ignorance, fear of the unknown, truth in magic or chance, or a false conception of causation.”***

Belief in God is based on evidence. *God has never called us to take a “blind leap of faith”* as non-believers often claim. Both *true* science (and many scientists) affirm belief in God as rational, evidence-based faith, (not a blind leap).

The result of having faith in God and practicing biblical principles improves life and helps mature the culture in which that faith is practiced. Love one another, don’t murder, don’t steal, be kind, treat others the way you want to be treated, help the unfortunate and the needy, obey the laws of the land, and many other commands, are clearly understood by all rational people to be necessary to a civil society.

Superstitions, on the other hand are, by Webster’s definition, results of “ignorance... magic... chance, or a false conception of causation” (what does or doesn’t cause events to happen). Adam Heidt was horrifically anti-Christian in his actions. His violence *seemed to him* to be based in logic, but was, instead, based on evil superstitions (as all superstitions are).

From belief in “luck” (some nebulous power that the universe supposedly has over us) to avoidance of black cats, walking under ladders and breaking mirrors, Satan has convinced even some true Christians that superstition, not God, has the real power in life.

All of us should be biblical and diligent to root out every vestige of superstition as we seek to please our heavenly Father.

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