

# Thought Crime

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## **For Discussion: Is Thought Crime Coming to America? (frontpagemag.com; October 29, 2024)**

Elsewhere in the West, in countries that lack our First Amendment rights, this soft totalitarianism is hardening into the criminalization of expressions of Christian faith such as saying “God bless you” to someone, and silent prayer.

<https://www.frontpagemag.com/is-thought-crime-coming-to-america/>

### **What is soft totalitarianism?**

It is the culture pressuring a class of people to conform to the politically correct perspective. It is a form of persecution and it is generally directed against Christians in our culture.

### **How is soft totalitarianism directed against Christians?**

Our cultural elites who dominate our institutions and have no qualms about enforcing their norms, such as kink-promoting “Pride” parades, transgender flags adorning classrooms, demands to accommodate personal pronouns, sexualizing pre-K children, and pornography in school libraries.

Kamala Harris, who claims to be a Christian, paused during a University of Wisconsin rally to address a pair of Christians protesting her pro-abortion promises by shouting, “Jesus is Lord!”

- She told them, to the crowd’s uproarious approval, “You guys are at the wrong rally. I think you meant to go to the smaller one down the street.”  
The students later told Fox News they were heckled, cursed, and shoved by other attendees.
- Recently the editor of Mother Jones magazine complained that a flight attendant shared a “Christian nationalist dog-whistle” by merely wishing the passengers a “blessed” night.  
The editor even tried to pressure Alaska Airlines publicly to take action to ensure that no passenger would be oppressed again by the “dominant culture enforcing its norms.”

### **How is progressivism simply rebranded communism?**

It is cultural Marxism with pits people against each other over race, class, religion, or other distinctions.

- Karl Marx himself saw the eradication of Christianity as a necessary pre-condition for realizing his collectivist utopian vision
- Today’s neo-Marxists are intolerant of Christians and their “invisible sky god” whose moral demands are an obstacle to progressive libertinism.

In other Western countries, this soft totalitarianism is hardening into the criminalization of expressing Christian faith such as saying “God bless you” to someone, and silent prayer.

Example: Adam Smith-Connor, a British army veteran who served in Afghanistan, was found guilty of praying silently near an abortion clinic in Dorset, England.

- His offense was praying in a buffer zone designed to stop pro-life beliefs being expressed near the facility.
- According to Christian Daily, Smith-Connor was merely thinking about his son, whose abortion he regretted having paid for many years before.
- During a confrontation with police officers, they asked him, “What is the nature of your prayer?”
- The court found him guilty of an act of “disapproval of abortion” and ordered the father of two to pay prosecution costs of \$11,700 USD.

After the ruling, Jeremiah Iggunbole, legal counsel, called the result a watershed moment for British freedoms, and one the public must not take lightly.

### **Could this happen in America with our First Amendment protection?**

The Left is obsessed with eroding the inconvenient safeguards of our Constitution, which they see as a “living document” that needs updating for our time.

- They relentlessly push for censorship of what they deem to be “misinformation” or “disinformation.”
- They despise free speech advocate Elon Musk for enabling the social media platform X to become a more trustworthy news outlet.
- They label speech they disagree with “fascist violence,” which justifies violent “resistance” against their political enemies.

### **What trend should we expect if Leftists continue to hold political and cultural power?**

They will work tirelessly for the erosion of our constitutional protections, and for the increasing marginalization of Christians whose moral code is anathema to the progressive religion of expressive individualism.

- The soft totalitarianism will harden into the criminalization of Christian religious expression as it has in the UK, and will snowball from there to encompass all perceived threats to their hegemony.

### **What is a thought crime?**

A thought crime is a concept taken from the dystopian novel 1984 by George Orwell. In this novel, the ultra-authoritarian government has a division known as the Thought Police, or “Thinkpol,” which prosecutes individuals who have any thoughts contradicting the views of the ruling regime.

- In Orwell’s world, if anyone is found guilty of “thoughtcrime,” he is punished.

### **How are hate crimes effectively thought crimes?**

Prosecuting hate crimes effectively leads to Thought Police because it weights some motivations for crime as more severe than others.

### **Is thought crime a biblical concept?**

#### **Is it right to punish evil or impure thoughts?**

Sin is any instance of disobedience to God’s commands, whether in thought, word, or action.

- The Bible is clear that even thoughts can be sinful.

### **What are some examples of thoughts being sin?**

- The Ten Commandments prohibits coveting, which is a sin committed in the mind and heart (Ex 20:17).
- In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said the command to not commit adultery applied to anyone who looked at a woman with lust (Matt 5:27–28).

### **Is every thought that does not line up with God’s will a sin, or a “thought crime,” in the eyes of the Lord?**

Everyone has involuntary, intrusive thoughts that could lead to sin if you dwell on them. Since such thoughts are not what we’d choose to actively enter our minds, they are not sins in and of themselves.

- Temptation is not sin if we don’t act on it. Jesus was tempted (Mark 1:13; Luke 4:1-13), but He never sinned (Hebrews 4:15).
- However, choosing to dwell on or take pleasure in a sinful thought is a sin.

### **Can demons put wicked thoughts into people’s minds?**

Satan put into Judas’ heart—that is, his mind—the idea to carry out the betrayal of Christ (John 13:2).

- Judas Iscariot was certainly guilty of a “thought crime” in God’s eyes.

### **How should we deal with sinful thoughts?**

2 Corinthians 10:5 – *bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ*

With every thought that comes into our minds, whether that thought is good or evil, we have the opportunity to bring the thought to God in prayer (Philippians 4:6–7), ask Him for protection from any attack of the evil one (1 John 5:18–19), and think about things in heaven that please God and are beneficial to the saints (Colossians 3:1–2; Philippians 4:8).

### **How important are motives?**

A motive is the underlying reason for any action. Proverbs 16:2 says, “*All a person’s ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the LORD.*” Because the human heart is very deceitful (Jeremiah 17:9), we can easily fool ourselves about our own motives.

- We can pretend that we are choosing certain actions for God or the benefit of others, when in reality we have selfish reasons.
- God is not fooled by our selfishness and is “*a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart*” (Hebrews 4:12).

### **So, what is the right motivation?**

To see God glorified...

1 Thessalonians 2:4 – *speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts*

God is interested in our motives even more than our actions...

1 Corinthians 4:5 – (when Jesus comes again), “*he will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.*”

God sees what no one else sees. He knows why we do what we do and will reward those whose hearts are right toward Him.

- We can keep our motives pure by continually surrendering our hearts to the control of the Holy Spirit.

### **How can we evaluate our own motives?**

Some good questions to ask ourselves...

- If no one ever knows what I am doing (giving, serving, sacrificing), would I still do it?
- If there was no visible payoff for doing this, would I still do it?
- Would I joyfully take a lesser position if God asked me to?
- Am I doing this for the praise of others or how it makes me feel?
- If I had to suffer for continuing what God has called me to do, would I continue?
- If others misunderstand or criticize my actions, will I stop?
- If those whom I am serving never show gratitude or repay me in any way, will I still do it?
- Do I judge my success or failure based upon my faithfulness to what God has asked me to do, or how I compare with others?

### **Does only glorifying God mean no personal satisfaction such as vacations or winning a competition?**

No, these things are not wrong in themselves. Motivation becomes an issue when we are not honest with ourselves about why we are doing things.

- When we give the outward appearance of obeying God but our hearts are hard, God knows.
- We are deceiving ourselves and others, too. The only way we can operate from pure motives is when we *“walk in the Spirit”* (Galatians 5:16, 25).

### **Since thoughts can be sinful, should the government prosecute thought crimes?**

No, thoughts are beyond the knowing of mere mortals.

- Men cannot read others' minds or view their thoughts. That is why Jesus said in Matthew 7:1, *“Judge not.”* We can't truly know a person's motivations.

### **Does Jesus admonishing us not to judge in Matthew 7:1 mean that we should never judge others?**

No, it means we should never judge the motivations of others since that is the purview of God alone.

John 7:24 – *Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.*

We should exercise moral and theological discernment.

Jesus went on in Matthew 7 to say that we should in fact judge actions if not motives...

Matthew 7:15-16 – *Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits.*

### **What is the prophetic significance of prosecuting thought crimes?**

- The government of the Antichrist will be totalitarian (Daniel 7:23) and thus can not tolerate free speech (you better not say what is on your mind).
- Also, Jesus said that *“many will be offended”* and *“hate one another”* in Matthew 24:10

### **What is driving people being offended and hating each other today?**

People are offended by what people say or do that indicates they are not believing the government narrative on abortion, immigration, race relations, global warming, vaccines, etc.

- This offence is due to making a judgment call on a person's motivation.
- There is a lot of hate over politics and religion; just what the Marxist seek to stir up.

Love is growing cold...

Matthew 24:12 – *because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.*

### **What applications do we see from this discussion?**

- Free speech is under attack setting the stage for the Antichrist's totalitarian government.
- The prosecuting of thoughts puts the government in place of God, which the Antichrist seeks to do.
- Thought crime is already an issue in the USA as political correctness (being offended).