

Text: Matthew 5:10-12, 38-48

1. Have you, or a family member encountered any of the expressions of Christianophobia identified by George Yancey?

2. Does the term “Christianophobia” being defined as an active current in our society help you prepare to respond to spiritual opposition? In what ways?

3. When you consider the two types of responses in Matt 5:38-48, what percentage of Christians do you think are prepared to respond in a Christ-like manner? How does Matt 24:12 impact your perception?

4. Describe an action you thought would be simple, and then you realized you needed practice (like a 14 year-old thinking driving would be simple...). Do you think you have sufficient practice responding to hostility like Jesus that you can respond in love in every circumstance?

5. If our culture continues to “drive Christians back into their homes and churches” how will that affect you? How will it affect Refuge Church? How will it affect America?

6. If all tax benefits for charitable contributions were eliminated, how would it affect your giving? How do you think it would affect churches in general?
From:

Yancey, George. *Hostile Environment: Understanding and Responding to Anti-Christian Bias*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2015.

Principles of those with Christianophobia:

1. They prefer measures that may... disproportionately hurt Christians but are not obvious in their intent to do harm. [taxing churches: it's just being fair to nonreligious people]. p, 40

2. Religious Neutrality: limit Christian interference in order to accomplish religious neutrality. [keep religious beliefs out of the public arena. "... drive Christians back into their homes and churches." e.g. Wheaton College, Chik Fil A, ACA] p, 40

3. They fear the loss of their rights of Christianity is allowed to flourish. [Vanderbily Univ., Bowdoin College policies: all student organizations are forbidden to have religious requirements for leadership.] p, 45

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

1. What new concept did you learn from this week's text?
2. Is there anything in the text that you don't understand?
3. How does this text challenge you to change? Is there anything standing in your way of making that change?