

# Is Christianity Good for the World? by Abdu Murray

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## Objections: Christianity is responsible for:

- Sexism (Patriarchy)
- Racism (favoring one ethnicity over others/Slavery/Colonialism)
- Homophobia, Transphobia

## Is it Dangerous?

- Racist and Sexist?
  - Slavery: The Bible does not condone race-based chattel slavery (owning people as property based on race or ethnicity). Rather, the Bible describes and regulates indentured (debt) servitude.
  - Ethnicities are described but never judged by God based merely on ethnicity.
  - John 4: The Samaritan Woman encounter - Ethnicity and gender all rolled into one story
  - **Frederick Douglass:** “Between the Christianity of this land, and the Christianity of Christ, I recognize the widest possible difference—so wide, that to receive the one as good, pure, and holy, is of necessity to be the enemy of the other. I love the pure, peaceable, and impartial Christianity of Christ: I therefore hate the corrupt, slaveholding, women-whipping, cradle-plundering, partial and hypocritical Christianity of this land... Indeed, I can see no reason, but the most deceitful one, for calling the religion of this land Christianity.”
  - **Michael Kruger:** Christianity was not mocked in the early centuries for being anti-woman. It was mocked for being so pro-women. Christianity was made fun of by the cultural elites in the Greco-Roman world because so many Christians were women. As a result, the elites said, ‘Oh, this is a religion for women and children.
- Homophobia/Transphobia?

- Sexual behavior and gender are based on the objective sacredness of every human being.

## **The Cultural Benefits of Christianity**

- The Gospel message that inspired abolitionist movement.
- The gospel message that fueled women's suffrage advocates.
- Equality and sacredness of the person
  - No delusion to think we bear that incalculably valuable image because creation is fingerprinted by the Divine.
- Global Hope:
  - Matthew Parris: "Now a confirmed atheist, I've become convinced of the enormous contribution that Christian evangelism makes in Africa: sharply distinct from the work of secular NGOs, government projects and international aid efforts. These alone will not do. Education and training alone will not do. In Africa Christianity changes people's hearts. It brings a spiritual transformation. The rebirth is real. The change is good."

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