

The “Christian” Label

By David Wright

Shortly before the fall of the Taliban in Afghanistan, fanatical Muslims in that country made international headlines by passing legislation designed ostensibly to protect Hindus. The new law required all of this faith to wear identifying labels on their clothing. Plainly, the Islamic fundamentalists’ real purpose was to stigmatize and isolate Hindus.

How would we react to a development of this sort in the United States? Most American Christians are comfortable with or even proud of designer labels on their clothing, but how would we like it if we were compelled by law to wear an “I’m a Christian” label? Would we be proud or ashamed?

The apostle Paul wore a “Christian” label at all times. He told the churches of Galatia that he bore on his “body the marks of Jesus” (Gal. 6:17). No, Paul’s “Christian” label wasn’t worn on his clothes. It was tattooed into his skin by all the beatings he suffered for Christ. Whips, rods, and rocks had marked his face, chest, back, hips, and legs with ugly scars. But he wasn’t the least bit ashamed. If Paul was proud of anything, it was of his relationship with Jesus (2 Cor. 10:17).

At the present Christians in Kentuckiana are not compelled to wear identifying labels on their clothes or the “marks of Jesus” on their bodies. However, truly faithful Christians make no effort to conceal their passion for Christ. “You are the light of the world,” Jesus said. “A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matt. 5:14-16).

[David's Articles](#)

<http://www.meigs-avenue-church-of-christ.org>