



Hate Crimes Laws: Censoring the Church and Silencing Christians

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While the Scriptures teach that both actions and attitudes are sinful (see Matt. 5:21-22), only our outward actions are punishable by law. In fact, Exodus 21-22 contains scores of laws and punishments against outward actions committed against others. However, no mention is made of the inward attitudes associated with those crimes.



Logic would suggest that violent crimes are inherently acts of “hate.” But the new category of law known as “hate crimes” involves punishing people not only for an outward act of violence, but also for the personal opinions which are thought to have motivated the crime.

Homosexual activists and their allies in Congress are now pushing for a law (HR 1913/S 909) that would allow federal prosecution of any crimes allegedly motivated by bias, including bias against the victim's actual or perceived “sexual orientation” or “gender identity.” The latest federal hate crimes legislation says it only authorizes prosecution of those who cause or attempt to cause “bodily injury.” However, since violent crimes are *already* illegal, the “hate” label and federal intervention would be based on politically incorrect thoughts alone.



The truth is that wherever hate crimes laws have been adopted, there is an inevitable move to drop the requirement that there be an associated act of violence. In such cases, these laws have evolved to target what is regarded as hate speech and expression. What you say could literally land you in jail.

According to attorneys with the Alliance Defense Fund, hate crimes legislation could prove disastrous for pastors, churches, and organizations who advocate peacefully against the homosexual agenda and lifestyle. Here's how: Currently, every state has laws that prohibit conspiracy to commit a crime. Linked to hate crimes, preaching or teaching against homosexual conduct could be prosecuted as conspiracy to commit a hate crime.

For instance, a minister who preaches from Genesis 19 or Romans 1, referencing the homosexual agenda or lifestyle, could be heard by an individual who applies it in a way prohibited by a hate crimes law. Not only would the offender be prosecuted under this law, but also the minister could be prosecuted for conspiracy. Hate crimes laws would radically impact our freedom of speech!



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Hate Crimes Action Alert

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Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009: HR 1913 has passed the House, so the battle moves on to the Senate. The current Senate plan is to ammend Hate Crimes to an authorization bill to try to sneek it through. However, Christians all across the nation can make an impact on the outcome.

Hate Crimes Action Steps:

1. Pray for National Awareness – While it might sound good on the surface (nobody is for hate crimes), this hate crimes law would be disastrous for our freedoms. Hate crimes legislation would:

- Create a special class based on "sexual orientation" or "gender identity."
- Establish a two-tiered system of justice where people are given one penalty for their actions and an additional penalty for the politically incorrect thoughts that allegedly motivated those actions.
- Jeopardize the Constitutional rights of pastors and religious individuals to peacefully and publicly disagree on issues of sexual orientation and gender identity.

2. Stay Informed – Sign up for the Washington Update at www.FRC.org and order a video copy of *Hate Crimes Laws: Censoring the Church and Silencing Christians* at www.FightHateCrimes.com.

3. Take Action – Some things you can do now:

1. Contact your Senators at (202) 224-3121 or www.FRC.org and tell them you are against Hate Crimes because of the threats to our Constitutional freedom of speech and religion.
2. Urge those who refuse to budge on hate crimes expansion to at least add a clear and a broad-based exemption sufficient to protect religious speech.
3. Share this message with four friends.



"I have a responsibility... to let people know that the way they live is wrong.... And...declare that if they turn around and follow Christ they will not come under judgment."

- Pastor Åke Green

Pastor Åke Green was sentenced on June 29, 2004 to one month in jail for showing "disrespect" against homosexuals in a sermon delivered in Borgholm, Sweden on July 20, 2003.

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