

The Anti-Christ

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In Sunday School, I was taught that one day The Anti-Christ would come and, skipping over the details, would wreak havoc upon the Earth and its inhabitants. Such an event would result in many years of conflict culminating with the second coming of Christ. Throughout my life, I've heard several people referred to as the Anti-Christ. But the havoc did not ensue.

Today, I contemplate our world situation and wonder: What if the Anti-Christ is not a person? Not a demon? Not an army of demons? Not even Satan himself?

What if the Anti-Christ was not a physical entity, but a philosophy? A philosophy composed of ideals and standards of conduct that are in full opposition to Christian thought? What if the Anti-Christ is a set of behaviours that seek to destroy the Christian community of brotherhood and caring? Of doing the right thing in every situation regardless of the consequences? What if the Anti-Christ is the proliferation of selfishness? Of Hedonism? Of putting self-interest and self-gain above all else?

The cornerstone of Christian teaching is, in my opinion, the existence of Free Will. And so I wonder if the Anti-Christ is the slow and methodical institution of compulsory actions, set upon us by a philosophy opposed to Free Will?

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Free will allows us to choose whether or not to adhere to the commandments and whether or not to give the beggar on the corner a dollar. Recently, hiding beneath the cloak of doing something good, Free Will is being replaced by compulsory actions mandated by others.