

Communism and the Historic Christian Faith  
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Christianity came into a world which was filled with oppression and cruelty. Great masses of people were held as slaves, often brutally beaten, and sometimes killed, simply at the whim of their owners. The Roman emperors ruled in arbitrary fashion over all the nations which they had conquered, often brutally oppressing and torturing, not only members of the conquered nations, but also citizens of Rome as well. Moral conditions were bad, and the social organization was full of injustice.

In this situation, the Christian Church began to preach the Gospel of individual salvation through Christ, while paying no direct attention to social problems or even to seemingly great moral issues, outside of the church itself. It is amazing to look through the New Testament epistles and see the lack of any attack on political oppression, <sup>on</sup> social injustice, or even <sup>not on</sup> slavery, ~~itself~~. Yet the effect of the preaching of the Gospel was to humanize the heart of the slaveholder, to Christianize the attitude of the slave, and to cause both, if they had accepted Christ as Saviour, to look upon one another as brothers, and in time to see the folly of the institution of slavery.

At last the imperial throne itself was <sup>effected</sup>, and the whole fabric of government was changed, as converted individuals sought to apply truly Christian principles to their personal relationships. The Historic Christian Faith was the dynamite which struck at the very root of the corrupt practices, and wicked organization of the Roman world. No social planning the world has ever seen has accomplished anything like as much for the betterment of humanity as the changed character brought about by the preaching of the Gospel.

The only real solution for the world's economic and social ills is to be found in the Historic Christian Faith.