

CouplesInBloom.com – **Worse Than Terrorism**

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This and previous seasons of history have seen terrorism against Christians. Ruthless murder of men, women and children abound unchecked. Two related Bible verses are:

- 2 Timothy 3:12 ⇨ Indeed, all desiring to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.
- Matthew 24:12 ⇨ Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many will become cold.

Timothy 3:12 refers to “all” Christians, but... **who does Matthew 24:12 refer to?**

Jesus literally said here that the “agape” love of many will grow cold. Terrorists do not *own* “agape” love *to* grow cold, and it is foolish religiosity to expect them to exercise it. Jesus said Matthew 24:12 **to His disciples**; Scripture out of *context* is not Christianity but rather a perversion thereof, of which many exist. So: **who does Matthew 24:12 refer to?**

What is “agape” love, and who has it? The New Testament has the word 106 times so the picture is clear, and is also seen in the Old Testament as far back as Genesis 1:1 where God created goodness: “agape” love is initiating goodness where there was none. Despite humanistically ingrained cultures, we still know by Scripture and the Holy Spirit that every good thing is from God alone ⇨ James 1:17; Matthew 19:17; Mark 10:18; etc.

So: **who does Matthew 24:12 refer to?** It refers to owners of “agape” love; those in relationship with God. It does not refer to terrorists, even though their conscience is cold and calloused over which ⇨ Romans 1 addresses... and is a very different characteristic than God’s “agape” love. The next question is: **how does Matthew 24:12 refer to us?**

Back to our international terrorism problem: we are properly appalled at terrorism; it is clearly wrong. We may feel powerless to do anything to stop it, even though we can help in many ways through certain ministries... but that is not our topic today. Easy question: **Which is worse: human death or spiritual death (hell, that is)?** Human death is leaving this world to face eternity, but spiritual death is facing eternity without God, which is never-ending evil. **Spiritual death is infinitely worse.**

So: **how does Matthew 24:12 refer to us?** Back to our international terrorism problem: we cannot stop its human death. However, in the previous paragraph we just recounted that **spiritual death is infinitely worse than human death.** As Christians, we **alone can stop spiritual death**, which we know is **infinitely worse than human death.**

If we had the solution to the human death of terrorism, we would be rightly criticized for not rescuing the men, women and children having their throats cut open and blood drained out into bowls in public mockery. But we do not have that solution to save these people. **God did give us the solution to the worse problem, which is spiritual death.**

Pause and recount the simple words on this page; then realize the following truth:

Christians who do not help make disciples are far worse than terrorists. Terrorists have no lasting power and can merely take **human life**. Christians alone own the power of eternal **spiritual life**, which is through relationship with Jesus Christ. To **withhold that** from hell-bound humans (i.e. **to not make disciples**) is far worse than cutting open the necks of children; it is contentment with their **spiritual death... worse than terrorism.**

Christians who help make disciples do far more good than terrorism does evil. ♀ ♀ ⚔️ ❤️