

**Michele Bachmann wants to
convert as many Jews to
Christianity as possible**

Free speech rights vs. Religious Proselyting

11/10/2015

Joshua R. Simons

Michele Bachmann wants to convert as many Jews to Christianity as possible

By Joshua R. Simons

According to a story from thedailybeast.com, former Presidential candidate and congresswoman Michele Bachmann proclaimed that she feels more people need to convert to Christianity in anticipation for the imminent coming of the Messiah.

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/cheats/2015/11/08/bachman-convert-jews-before-jesus-comes.html?ref=yfp>

The idea of preparing for the coming of the messiah is nothing new. In fact, unbeknown to many, a fundamental tenant of Judaism is the belief in the coming of a Messiah.

Moshe ben Maimon of “Maimonides”, a great Jewish sage from the 12th century writes that this is one of the 13 pillars of faith of Judaism.

“12. The belief in the arrival of the Messiah and the messianic era.”

(http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/332555/jewish/Maimonides-13-Principles-of-Faith.htm)

Additionally, the idea of the Messiah coming soon is nothing new to the Jewish faith. Throughout his 44 years as head of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneersohn, proclaimed that the Messiah is ready to come. In an interview with CNN in 1992, Rabbi Schneersohn was asked what his message to the world is about the Messiah. Here is what he said: (Moshiach is Messiah in Hebrew)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6nc_1XdIH8

One of the greatest gifts we share as Americans, regardless of religion is our first amendment rights to freedom of speech, press, and the right to assemble.

Amendment I FREEDOM OF RELIGION, SPEECH, PRESS, ASSEMBLY, AND PETITION

Passed by Congress September 25, 1789. Ratified December 15, 1791. The first 10 amendments form the Bill of Rights

Congress shall make no law **respecting** an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

<http://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendments/amendment-i>

Michele Bachmann has every right to share what she did. If she feels this is her mission, she is entitled to share her views.

As a Jewish person, I am not offended by what she said. If this is what her religion teaches her, who am I to say that she shouldn't feel or express her views?

I feel we live in an era where free speech takes a back seat to political correctness. If someone says anything offensive, that person is ostracized.

In the comments to this

article http://www.haaretz.com/jewish/news/1.684848?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

Many readers claim their displeasure with her comments. They call them offensive, wrong, and refer to her as crazy.

I welcome them. I want to understand other people's viewpoints. This is the goal of the first amendment.

In the famous court case Abrams vs. United States (1919) Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. quoted one of the most explanations for the value and purpose of the first amendment.

“The ultimate good desired is better reached by free trade in ideas — that the best test of truth is the power of the thought to get itself accepted in the competition of the market.”

(<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/holmes%E2%80%99-idea-marketplace-%E2%80%93-its-origins-legacy>)

In a world with so much diversity, isn't it important to understand other people? How much strife is caused in the world from sheer ignorance? How many arguments to couples have when one person says: “I thought you meant” or “I didn't realize that's what you were saying?” Who remembers playing the game telephone as kid? Did the original message ever reach the last person? Not when I played.

If people don't communicate, how do learn about each other?

How many readers who have read this article knew about the Jewish concept of a messiah before reading this article?

Some readers may ask: “So you don't mind if people try to convert you? They may protest to these types of efforts calling them offensive.

My response to those readers: You have a right to feel that way and express those views.

The point is that what Michele Bachmann did was say her views. She didn't act on them. That is a different story.

We need to cherish this right to say and express our views, even when we don't agree with them, or find them offensive. If we as a society fear sharing our views because they may offend someone, we find ourselves on a slippery slope that never ends.

Comments and follow up discussion from this article

1. On Mon, Dec 7, 2015 at 8:51 PM, Jason Matthew Bossert - NCMA <jasonbossert_ma@aol.com> wrote:
So you being jewish and not offended with her view of trying to convert jews to Christianity isn't offensive to you..

Then you aren't offended, by Hitler and the Holocaust. I assume, that you believe that President Barack Obama is a Muslim too...

Well buddy it's no different then an inconsiderate insensitive rude Christian trying to convert jews or no different then Christians, Catholics and Nazis who call us Jewish "dirty Jew" "jewbag" "cheap jew" filthy dirty jew and or the K word... The L word is no different than someone dropping the N word....

Lastly, six million Jews died. Because Hitler wanted them to convert as well and we said Oh Hell No!

Sent on my Boost Mobile Samsung Galaxy S@ 5

2. ----- Original message -----

From: "Joshua R. Simons" <simonssays1@gmail.com>

Date: 2015/12/07 10:28 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: Jason Matthew Bossert - NCMA <jasonbossert_ma@aol.com>

Subject: Re:

First of all, thank you for taking the time to read and respond to my article.

I think it is very far fetched to compare what Michele Bachman said to anything that

Hitler said or did. Hitler's goal was not to convert Jews, it was to destroy us. He wanted to purge society of Jews so that in his twisted mind society would be pure.

I would also like to reiterate that there is a big difference between saying something and doing something. Michele Bachman has done nothing violent or harmful with her words that can remotely compare to anything Hitler did. Unless you believe that her statements alone make her as evil as Hitler.

If you learn about 1st amendment law, you will find that there is a difference between speech that causes an immediate threat or imminent danger to someone versus someone sharing their views. It is not permitted to say to someone, "Hey Jewbag, I'm going to kill you." If this statement or any of the names you detailed in your second paragraph were to be accompanied by this type of threat, it would be unprotected speech.

I don't know what your assumption that I believe Obama is a Muslim has to do with this discussion.

I do understand that it is frustrating and upsetting that people in society feel this way about us. Unfortunately that is the price we pay for living in a free society. Look at history at what the alternatives were and how they turned out for Jews.

Thank you,

Joshua R. Simons

3. On Mon, Dec 7, 2015 at 10:33 PM, Jason Matthew Bossert - NCMA <jasonbossert_ma@aol.com> wrote:
I am saying what we hear on The news from trump and the rest of them, is No different then them going out on Live TV and using the N word... I was comparing flinging of the word "Muslim" as being the same as Nazi's and other folks calling us Jews, derogatory Names

Sent on my Boost Mobile Samsung Galaxy S@ 5

4. ----- Original message -----
From: "Joshua R. Simons" <simonsays1@gmail.com>
Date: 2015/12/07 10:42 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: Jason Matthew Bossert - NCMA <jasonbossert_ma@aol.com>
Subject: Re:

Do you feel any speech that is offensive should be banned? If speech is not free, who should regulate it and decide what is ok and not ok to say?

Do you want the government to do that?

5. Jason Matthew Bossert - NCMA <jasonbossert_ma@aol.com> 12/7/15

I never said that, but people need to be more aware of their words and not say whatever they WANT. LIKE HEY YOU SUCK, YOU THROW LIKE A GIRL...

Sent on my Boost Mobile Samsung Galaxy S@ 5