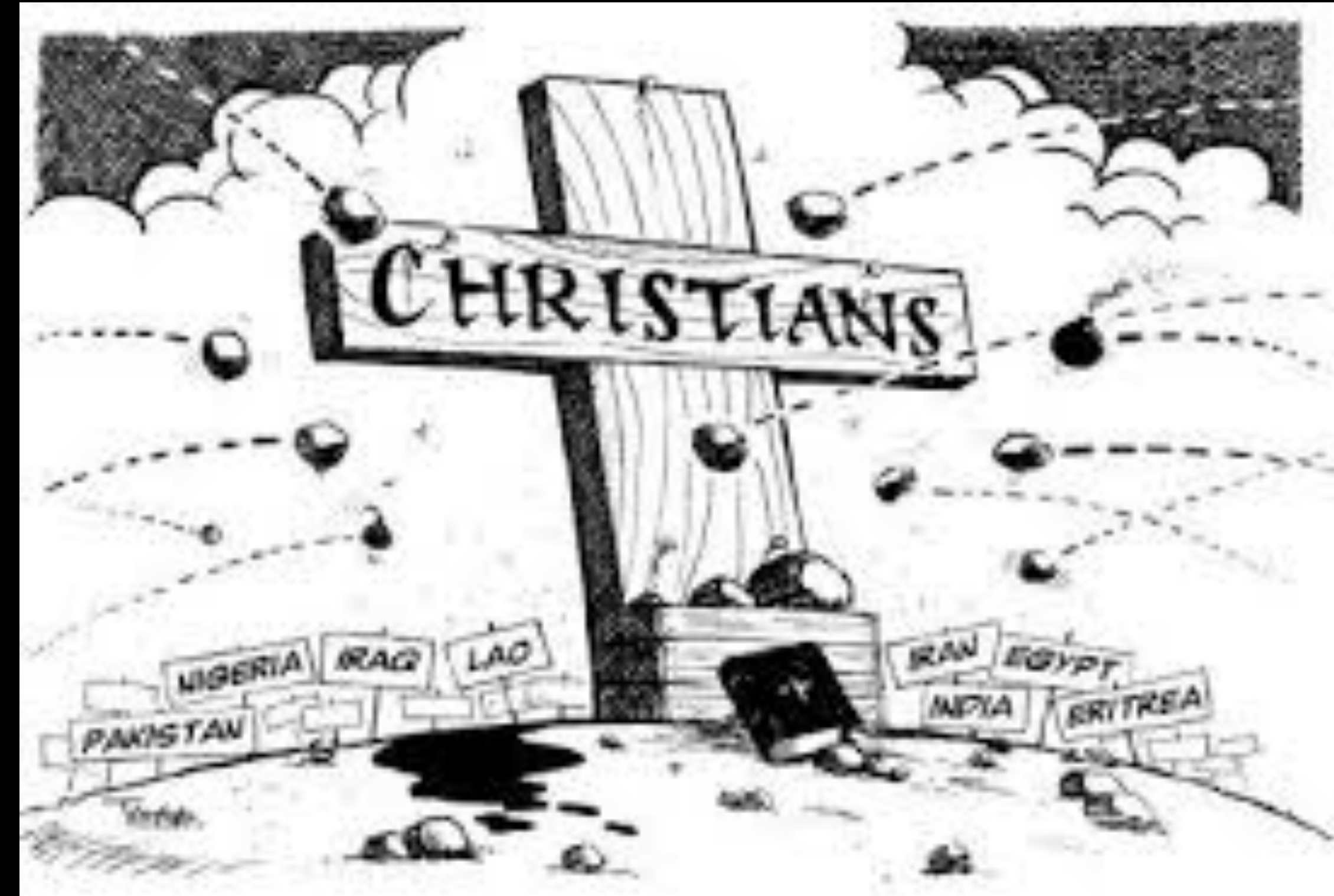


casting your cares



j.t. lowery

- **Many of our cares come from unfair treatment from others because of the truth we carry.** *John 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.*
- **The fact that we serve Christ can cause people to shun us, which may result in divisions. The truth divides us from those that do not desire Christ or His way.** *1Pet. 4:14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.*
- **This division should never cause us to look down on ourselves or be ashamed because of what we believe. However, carrying these cares can make us spiritually reclusive and hinder us from fellowshiping.** *1Pet. 3:14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;*





- **The Bible tells us that there will be divisions in our own families because of Christ. These types of divisions should never cause us to exile ourselves from our family, but we must continue to love them.** *Luke 12:53 The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.*
- **The Bible illustrates that the division will be in "houses" among those living together. This message symbolizes our tolerance for our loved ones to the point of even living with them.** *Luke 12:52 For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three.*
- **Family is important and we must pray that God allows us to love without using our relationship with Christ as a weapon against them.** *1Pet. 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:*

- **Spite, hurt, and malice can cause us to use truth as an excuse to separate from family. This behavior is contrary to God's Word, we must always seek peace among our loved ones.** *Rom. 14:19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.*
- **Though the Gospel may offend them, it's up to us to be tolerant of family for the sake of our own children. When we isolate ourselves, we are hindering our children's ability to have extended family and to enjoy their presence.** *Lev. 19:18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.*
- **When we are introverted and alienated from our family then our children will develop complexes and misunderstandings. When they come of age, they may be resentful for the strife that kept them from their own loved ones.** *Prov. 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*





Doing things God's way may cause our loved ones to feel uncomfortable with us, especially when the Gospel exposes their flaws and bad decisions. We must be careful not to allow the Gospel that we have received to hurt our loved ones by using it to punish them for their wrongdoings. Just like the Gospel reached us, it must reach them. We did not receive the Gospel through strife or wrong motives, but through love and conviction. It's not up to us to call anyone to the table to be chastened by God, but we must let the truth find them, just like it found us. When we deliver the Gospel with love and with a pure heart, we can rest assured that they rejected the Gospel because of its truth, not because of our malicious approach.

It can be very hard to live down bad decisions and errors, so we must be patient with loved ones that have not responded to what we believe. When we are patient and operate in real love, we show the true method of Christ and how His love and mercy changed us. When we are ridiculed, frustrated and persecuted for the cause of Christ, we should cast these cares on God. While God carries our cares, we should love and honor our families. Genuine love will help win them to Christ and also help us deal with these situations with a clear conscience.

1Pet. 3:16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

1Pet. 3:17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.