

How Do Christians Handle Conspiracy Theories

In 2013 Professor Lance Dehaven-Smith, in a peer-reviewed book published by the University of Texas Press, showed that the term "conspiracy theory" was developed by the CIA as a means of undercutting critics of the Warren Commission's report that President Kennedy was killed by Oswald. The use of this term was heavily promoted in the media by the CIA. The media was happy to spread the word since they were receiving a lot of money to do that through Operation Mockingbird (easy to google all the stuff on that).

The real problem with using that term is that it is used by people to allow themselves to suspend rational thought or do research on a topic. They just accept the official (government/media) spin on whatever the topic is without actually researching or even thinking about it. Of course, as a Christian, I'm not allowed to do that. I'm required to use the mind God gave me to think and research and come to a conclusion on any topic of importance. Of course, there are some things I don't consider important enough to dive into, and we have limits with time, but I don't marginalize those who have some theory I don't have time to research or even those I have researched and disagree with. Marginalization is something disallowed of Christians or anyone who wants to be considered rational. One dictionary definition for "marginalize" is "To relegate or confine to a lower or outer limit or edge, as of social standing." Basically, it means you categorize someone as less than yourself when they have a theory you don't agree with or understand. All Christians should understand this because the world often marginalizes those who believe in God, the reasons for which I won't go into here.

So some examples: There is a theory that the earth is flat. I don't agree with this theory and have exact rational reasons for that, though I don't consider myself educated enough to be able to make any physics arguments in the case. There is another theory called geocentricity, where the earth is considered to be the center of the universe. It turns out the math works for that theory just as it works for the opposing view, but I don't have the time to figure all the math out and haven't studied all the arguments. There are some really sharp credible people who believe in that, though. So, for me, I don't have a firm opinion on it, but I don't discount it. It's just not that big a deal to me (or, I would research it). Another example of something some call a "conspiracy theory" is the takedown of the Twin Towers in New York in 2001. It's been theorized that the planes crashing into them couldn't have caused the collapse of the towers. There has been a lot of evidence showing that this is true, including a recent study from UAF. So, while we may not ever know all the details of what went on, we do know that it wasn't just the planes that caused its collapse.

To change things in the world, we have to first change ourselves. A critical step in doing this is not to allow the world to dictate our language. So, the next time someone says something you don't agree with, don't call them a conspiracy theorist; just say you don't agree. Don't marginalize people. Teach them the truth and respect them as creations of

God. I want to finish with the most relevant verse in the Bible on conspiracy theories, Isaiah 8:12-14a **"Say ye not, a confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, a confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid. Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread, and he shall be for a sanctuary;"** This makes it clear that there are conspiracies against us, but we don't have to fear them. It's ok to recognize them and fight them, but in the end, God is the one who will destroy them.