

The ABC's War on Christianity

Ruth shared a number of newspaper articles by Andrew Bolt at our Kingdom Community gathering:

“WE know the ABC is at war with Christianity when it refuses to apologise for spreading a vicious falsehood.

ABC presenter Julia Baird last week claimed “evangelical men who sporadically attend church are more likely than men of any other religious group (and more likely than secular men) to assault their wives”.

This obvious falsehood was repeated by the ABC’s 7.30 in hyping Baird’s articles accusing churches of breeding domestic violence. But as I showed here last week, Baird was wrong.

The most likely wife-bashers are Aboriginal men, with Aboriginal women at least 31 times more likely to be hospitalised...

So how did the ABC respond? By issuing a tweet attacking “those who want to dispute the women’s stories by quibbling over footnotes”. How dishonest. I am not disputing the victims’ stories, nor “quibbling over footnotes”. I simply say Baird’s central claim in attacking Christianity is false.”¹



“Baird, herself, concedes deep in her online article that her American source says “regular church attenders are less likely to commit acts of intimate partner violence”. That suggests Christianity actually protects women, exactly the opposite of what the ABC implied.

But check further and it becomes clear Baird missed clear evidence that contradicts her anti-Church theory. Her single source for her big claim is Steven Tracy, a theology professor at a Phoenix seminary, who did indeed in one essay claim “conservative Protestant men who are irregular church attendees are the most likely to batter their wives”.

But when you check Tracy’s own sources you’ll find the evidence is against him.

Tracy cites a paper by Professor Christopher G. Ellison which actually finds that other groups experience greater incidences of domestic violence, demonstrating that there are, in fact, competing views on this issue. The paper claims: “African-Americans, in particular, have higher levels of domestic violence”.

What’s more, Ellison says that men who often go to a Christian church “are 72 per cent less likely to abuse their female partners than men from comparable backgrounds who do not attend services”.

The conclusion is clear: “Our findings...suggest that religious involvement, specifically church attendance, protects against domestic violence”. Christianity literally saves.”²

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1 – Andrew Bolt (24-7-2017) “ABC’s apology refusal after attack on Christianity was all wrong” [opinion]
(www.heraldsun.com.au/news/opinion/andrew-bolt/andrew-bolt-abcs-apology-refusal-after-attack-on-christianity-was-all-wrong/news-story/4d3b7b1c70172e2e037e0ccfe739f695?nk=764dbd49d15871d698df20ebcb7bbdaa-1501454774)

2 – Andrew Bolt (19-7-2017) “Losing faith in the ABC over attacks on Christianity” [opinion]
(www.heraldsun.com.au/news/opinion/andrew-bolt/losing-faith-in-the-abc-over-attacks-on-christianity/news-story/99d48aa4961063465be75f77e31ad27a)