

Islam was founded by Muhammad, a demon-possessed pedophile . . .

A Recent Case of Religious Intolerance Towards Muslims

(at the national meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, June 7-12, 2002)

Rev. Jerry Vines (former head of the SBC):

[Vines, senior pastor of the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., deplored the rising tide of pluralism.]

“Today, people are saying all religions are the same,” Vines said. “They would have us believe Islam is just as good as Christianity. But I’m here to tell you, ladies and gentlemen, that Islam is not as good as Christianity. Christianity was founded by the virgin-born Lord Jesus Christ. Islam was founded by Muhammad, a demon-possessed pedophile who had 12 wives and his last one was a 9-year-old girl.”

[Muslims maintain that they are the descendants of the Judeo-Christian progenitor Abraham and serve the same God as Jews and Christians, even though they call him Allah.]

But Vines said: “Allah is not Jehovah. Jehovah is not going to turn you into a terrorist that’ll try to bomb people and take the lives of thousands and thousands of people.”

Rev. Jack Graham (current head of the SBC):

Graham declined to condemn his colleague and called Vines’ statement “accurate.” He defended Vines as a pastor who had a record of reaching across racial and denominational lines. “God loves Muslim people. Because God loves Muslim people, we do, too. Our desire is to serve them and share in any way we can our faith with them.” Though he said he regretted the controversial climate in which it was raised, Graham said he was glad to be involved in a dialog on Islam.

Rt. Rev. George Wayne Smith (Missouri Episcopal Bishop):

Smith condemned the statements and expressed solidarity “with our Muslim brothers and sisters.”

Rev. Lari Grubbs (Disciples of Christ minister in St. Louis):

The religious pluralism the Baptists blame for the country’s ills made it possible for Baptists to flourish in the U.S.

Smith and others:

[In explaining the historical and cultural context of Mohammed’s betrothal to a young girl]: “To equate Mohammed’s marriage with pedophilia is horrific,” repeating earlier statements that the marriage was not consummated until the girl was of age. He added that betrothals of children were common in Mohammed’s day as a way to unite families. He explained that such customs are not practiced by Muslims today.