

# **Christians in a PC World**

by

John Benton

**EP** Books

EP BOOKS  
Faverdale North  
Darlington  
DL3 0PH, England

www.epbooks.org  
e-mail: sales@epbooks.org

EP books are distributed in the USA by:  
JPL Fulfillment, 3741 Linden Avenue Southeast, Grand Rapids, MI 49548

e-mail: orders@jplfulfillment.com  
Tel: 877.683.6935

© John Benton 2013. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publishers.

First published 2013

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data available

ISBN: 978-085-234-9120

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Hodder & Stoughton, a division of Hodder Headline Ltd. All rights reserved.

‘NIV’ is a registered trademark of International Bible Society. UK trademark number 1448790.

Scripture quotations marked ‘NKJV’ are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

## Contents

Introduction	11
Chapter 1: Atheism and its consequences	15
Chapter 2: A briefing on post-modernism	31
Chapter 3: What is political correctness?	47
Chapter 4: Some results of political correctness	67
Chapter 5: Therapy culture: the engine of political correctness	79
Chapter 6: A guide to answering the gay agenda	91
Chapter 7: Christianity and multiculturalism	103
Chapter 8: Pluralism, inclusivism and the gospel	121
Chapter 9: Where has feminism taken us?	141
Chapter 10: Evangelicalism falling for it?	151
Chapter 11: What happened to tolerance?	175
Postscript	187



For  
*Freddie Benton, Evie Benton*  
*Bethan Foster, Adah Benton*

‘I had forgotten that,’ said Eomer. ‘It is hard to be  
sure of anything among so many marvels.  
The world is all grown strange...  
How shall a man judge what to do in such times?’

‘As he has ever judged,’ said Aragorn.  
‘Good and ill have not changed since yesteryear;  
nor are they one thing among Elves and Dwarves  
and another among Men.  
It is a man’s part to discern them,  
as much in the Golden Wood as in his own house’

J. R. R. Tolkien: *The Lord of the Rings*



## Introduction

Listen to a writer, Anthony Browne, a Cambridge graduate and not long ago the Europe correspondent for *The Times* newspaper:

For centuries Britain has been a beacon of liberty of thought, belief and speech in the world, but now its intellectual and political life is in chains. Members of the public, academics, journalists and politicians are afraid of thinking certain thoughts. People are vilified if they publicly diverge from accepted beliefs, sacked or even investigated by the police for crimes against received wisdom. Whole areas of debate have been closed down by the crushing dominance of the moralistic ideology of political correctness. (*The Retreat of Reason*)

What kind of thing is he talking about?

For example, I have a friend who is a Christian and has a political life as a local councillor. During 2012 as the Coalition Government canvassed their desire to redefine marriage so as to include gay relationships, a debate was called for on the subject at the town's council. Although the issue had nothing whatever to do with the areas of jurisdiction relating to a town council, nevertheless it was decided that out of courtesy a debate should be allowed. A large group of supporters for the redefinition of marriage, around forty to fifty people turned

up. A number of short speeches from those representing the gay lobby were heard in respectful silence. But as my friend, who took a different point of view, got up to speak there was hissing and heckling. What my friend had to say was drowned in a torrent of abuse. Rational debate was impossible. It simply came down to intimidation. Later my friend received a number of abusive emails which were very upsetting.

Another example of the kind of thing Anthony Browne is talking about would be the implementation of the Sexual Orientation Regulations which came into force in 2007. Because of those regulations adoption agencies which were unable in good conscience to place children with same-sex couples were closed down. That was the case even when other agencies were available for same-sex couples to adopt children. This is not a 'live and let live' approach to life. This is people's consciences simply being set aside.

### **Not just about sex**

But lest we think this is all to do with attitudes to sex, let me mention a different example. Just a few years ago we celebrated the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade in Britain. There was something of a commemoration of the work of the great Christian politician William Wilberforce and his major contribution in stopping slavery. But although European culpability in the enslavement of Africans from the seventeenth to the nineteenth century was rightly highlighted by the British media, the Islamic world's involvement with slavery, including the enslavement of Africans and, to a lesser extent, Europeans, was hardly mentioned. This happened even though in many areas of the world Islamic slavery is still going on today. (One thinks of the work of Baroness Cox



and others freeing slaves in the Sudan.) Why was this? Why were Europeans (rightly) castigated, but relatively little was said on the major TV channels about Muslim involvement with slavery? It is because it would have been considered politically incorrect to challenge Islam. Somehow, though injustices by Westerners are fair game for criticism, to raise the same questions about the behaviour of other groups is frowned upon.

This is the abandoning of an objective approach. It is very different from the British sense of even-handedness and fair play of previous years.

## The PC world

The world has changed. Political correctness (PC) now holds tremendous sway. We live in a 'PC' world. We will give attention to a specific definition of political correctness later. But broadly speaking, political correctness is a setting aside of freedom of speech in the name of equality and not upsetting certain groups of people.

The old framework of British justice is no longer what it once was, and Christians need to understand this change of environment. A whole new set of rules has begun to apply in the way society runs. There is no longer a level playing-field. And more than that, politically correct campaigners would argue that it is right that the playing-field is no longer level. Furthermore, not only is this new outlook putting pressure on many churches, it is also causing some churches and church leaders to compromise and even rewrite the gospel.

This book is an attempt, from a Biblical point of view, to get our heads around what is happening and what it may mean for Christians in the future.