EXTREMISM AND CHRISTIANITY

Christians could be targeted by the Government's new counter-extremism strategy. Theresa's May's efforts to counter the ideology that underpins terrorist attacks could be misused to ensnare peaceful Christians who take issue with secularist ideologies. Many Britons now regard the claims of Christianity and even the person of Jesus Christ as representing extremism. It is even possible that our very faith in Christ on which this nation was built, might become a focus of the Government's counter-extremist agenda. Measures to counter extremism were included in the Queen's speech this year (2017).

Nearly a third of Britons think that Jesus was an extremist. Committed Christians are extreme only in their following of Christ and in all that contributes to the good of society, and in how we are called to the extremes of charity, of virtue, of unswerving adherence to goodness and of truth.

There is a destructive extremism we ought to fear, one which seeks not only to undermine marriage and the family, but also the very identity of the human person as male or female, an extremism that is pushing for abortion as a human right, an extremism which demands euthanasia for the incurably sick and aged, and extremism which has no conscience about the destruction of human embryos. That is the extremism which really threatens the foundations of society.

Of the 2000 people recently polled 13 per cent thought the Dali Lama could be considered an extremist, 20 percent said Ghandi could be considered an extremist and 25 per cent thought that Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandella could be considered extremist. A total of 41 per cent of those polled also said that people who believed that marriage was only between one man and one woman were verging on extremism. However 48 said that it was not extreme to give animals the same rights as human beings.

It seems to me that if we don't fall in with these secular ideologies and their accompanying political correctness we could all be considered extreme. The people pushing these ideologies would, of course, never considered themselves extreme in the least.