



# Reasons

## Anders Breivik was Dreadfully Wrong

As investigations continue into Friday's 'terror attack' in Norway, there's a disturbing detail. The shooting, which has killed 92, happened shortly after a massive car bomb went off in downtown Oslo, the capital of Norway, killing 7 and injuring at least 15. Reports describe the suspect, Anders Behring Breivik, as a **right-wing Christian Zionist** of Norwegian descent.

The question is, how could any kind of Christian, Zionist or not, see an act like this as being consistent with the Kingdom of Jesus Christ? Here are five reasons he's terribly wrong.

1. Jesus told us to love our enemies - not shoot them. No matter who Breivik perceived as his 'enemies' - whether the Norwegian Prime Minister, or the rallying students, his only Christian option was to love them.

2. Jesus said the days for militarism were over. When Peter and the other disciples tried to protect him from arrest before his trial and struck out with their weapons, Jesus said, "**Put away your swords.**" That was, in fact, his final word on "Zionism" too. The Old Testament fight for real estate was over. And while Jesus was now looking to establish a Kingdom that spanned all the nations, it wasn't going to be by force.

3. The missionary apostle Paul says our only weapons **are love and persuasion**. In 2 Corinthians 10 he says, "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We **demolish arguments** and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive **every thought** to make it obedient to Christ. Paul says that "the **sword of the Spirit is the word of God**," and that we should "speak the truth in love."

4. Paul says we should **submit to our leaders**, not bomb them. In Romans 13, he says "Everyone must submit himself to the



governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established." He tells Timothy to "**pray for kings and all those in authority**, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

5. Jesus said that all the necessary blood to be shed would be his blood... on the cross. He said things like, "I have come to **give my life as a ransom for many**," and "this is going to be a new contract written in **my blood**." As he died, he made amends, or atonement, between mankind and God in a way that left nothing more to be done, and no more blood to be shed. At the end of the day, he said, "It is finished." And it was.

So whatever motivated Anders Breivik on that day, it certainly wasn't the spirit of Christ or his kingdom. Whatever he imagined he was achieving for the Cause of Christ, he was dreadfully wrong. And true Christians everywhere will now need to be on the front foot demonstrating gentleness, love and the art of gospel persuasion as we work to make that clear to our world.

Phil Campbell, July 2011