

Letters: Fear not and capital punishment

March 29, 2016

Stand with Jesus or follow the fearful?

The editorial [“Fear not—why we need Easter this year”](#) is much-needed at this time. Marv Knox addresses fear, but other emotions are in play as well, such as hate and bigotry.

I don't believe our nation has been this divided since the start of the Civil War 155 years ago.

In 1861, Texas was blessed to have as its governor one of the most experienced politicians in America's history. Sam Houston was a military hero, as well, and was the only governor of a state that would become a part of the Confederacy who opposed secession and refused to sign an oath of allegiance to the Confederate States of America. Houston was forced from office, and the people followed a hothead named Jefferson Davis, who once vowed to drink every drop of Confederate blood shed south of the Mason-Dixon line.

Some of today's political figures are depending on hate, fear and bigotry to gain a following, no matter how much damage it does to America.

The day before the attack in Belgium, Ted Cruz was bragging that he would tear “to shreds” the treaty with Iran, which was negotiated with many of our allies. After the attack, Cruz and Donald Trump were spreading hate and fear even before all the body parts had been collected.

The really sad thing to see is so many prominent religious figures flocking to support these two. Will Christians choose to make a difference today by

standing for the teachings of Jesus or follow the fearful?

Carl Hess

Ozark, Ala.

Capital punishment is biblical

[Rev. Jeff Hood](#) is hardly credible.

For 2,000 years, all major Christian denominations, their leadership, biblical scholars and theologians provided support for the death penalty, which overwhelms any teachings to the contrary and still does.

Did biblical instruction and basic theology suddenly change?

Of course not, which confirms the profound weakness of these anti-death penalty positions, which, most often, have chosen the secular over the eternal or have, atomistically, wrongly proof-texted biblical passages, without looking at the full message.

As biblical scholar Lloyd Bailey states: "All interpretations, contrary to the biblical support of capital punishment, are false. Interpreters ought to listen to the Bible's own agenda, rather than to squeeze from it implications for their own agenda. As the ancient rabbis taught, 'Do not seek to be more righteous than your Creator.'"

Dudley Sharp

Houston