

Posted: 26 Oct 2004 22:34 Post subject: Mark Mohr's Response to "The Essay"  
Original URL: <http://www.lionofzion.com/forums/viewtopic.php?t=2109>  
Full unedited text, filed with contextual documentation at Christafari Research Center

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As I am writing this post, I am both wounded and frustrated by a senseless feud between the veteran accuser and myself. Since 1986 this individual has been contentious against Christafari and our core listeners in reggae forums and even more recently in the forum at lionofzion.com.

My face-to-face meeting in the UK, recent forum discussions and last Q and A interview with him seemed amicable, so you can imagine how surprised I was to find that for the last few years, he has simply been gathering ammunition for his longest ranting of all. Even worse, he has been "baiting" our listeners and my pastor in his undercover reasoning sessions. Now that his true intentions have come to light I am appalled!

I object to his constant misuse of quotes and wish that if someone were going to wrongfully quote copy-written material, they would at least get the context right. Given this, I ask that he not quote any of this post in any of his writings on his website unless he publishes it in its entirety so as to avoid any further misconceptions. Now I would like to address some of the issues that he has brought up.

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#### CHRISTAFARIANS AND CHRISTAFARIANISM:

First off, I am sorry that he has grossly misunderstood our use of the word "Christafarian". It is not a belief system or sect of faith. The word has only personally been used a few times to my knowledge. First, it was the original name of my band Christafari. Second, it has been used in past Lion of Zion updates in reference to our listeners. It was never used to describe a certain belief system. When I think of the term "Christafarian," I think about a supporter or admirer of our music. Not a convert that has been conformed to my ways.

The most recent use of this name was found in a question asked in a recent interview that was posted on [www.christafari.com](http://www.christafari.com). I was asked, "Why do you feel so many people get hooked into CHRISTAFARIANISM?"

My answer was simple:

"Our music is original and unlike anything out there in the Christian industry. This unique roots sound cannot be replaced by the latest industry manufactured pop sensation that is on the cover of CCM. We have created our own culture within our fan base. And these fans are diehard. We may not have a huge crowd every night when we are out on tour, but the ones that come truly understand what we are trying to accomplish and often drive as far as 5 states away just to fellowship with us and praise God through reggae music."

As you can see, the above question was not referring to a cult that I have started-- heaven forbid. I am simply referring to those who love our music. As I am being accused of starting some dangerous brew of Babylon Christianity, I now realize that I should have corrected this Brazilian interviewer, stating that I represent "Christafari," a band, not "Christafarianism," a religious movement. For though I am an ordained pastor, (a title that I very rarely use to describe myself, and one that I never use to lord myself over others), for years I have tried to make it crystal clear where we stand; I am a born again, baptized, gospel preaching Christian.



WE TEACH that all Christians are baptized by the Holy Spirit and permanently indwelt by Him at the point of salvation. The filling of the Holy Spirit is meant to be a continuous experience for the believer through submission to His controlling authority and power. (John 14:16, 15:5; Romans 6:3-5, 8:9-11; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 5:15-21)

WE TEACH that the body of Christ, the church, is composed of interdependent members who are born again, each having received from the Holy Spirit gifts which are to be exercised for the building up of the whole body. No one gift is given to all believers nor indicates regeneration, filling, or baptism with the Holy Spirit. (Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 2:14-20, 4:4-16)

WE TEACH baptism (by submersion in water) in the name of the Father, the Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit. Baptism is not necessary for salvation. It is an outward demonstration of the individual's inward conviction and a matter of obedience to our Lord. We teach that Christ commanded His church to baptize believers as a proclamation of their faith and identification with Him and His church, and to celebrate communion as a living memorial of His redemptive death and as a reminder of present fellowship with Christ and His body. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:28-47, 8:36-40, 10:47, 18:8; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29)

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Again, It is not my desire to make "Christafarians," only Christians. I challenge anyone that wishes to follow me in this endeavor to follow Christ instead. Let us work together side-by-side. I am merely a humble saint that is challenged daily by sin. I do not ever wish to lead anyone astray. This is why I remain accountable to local pastors such as Gwynn Lewis and Ken Vroom. This is why I slave to fill our lyrics and posts with Scripture and give our listeners a decided direction in their lives-- towards God, not towards me. I simply want to see people become lovers of the Word of God.

Many of you reading this may wonder "who, or what I am referring to?" Forgive me for not going into details, but I refuse to draw attention to such biblically unfounded misstatements. This would add fuel to his flame.

Others understand what I am responding to and have read the texts that have recently been deleted from our forum. I am sure that it is clear to you that when you read a writing like this, you have to consider the subject AND the source. My music, my doctrine, my lyrics, the fruits of this ministry and my life in Christ over the past 15 years reveal the truth. Consistency speaks volumes and the fruit does reveal the root.

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#### CAN A RASTA BE A CHRISTIAN?

In short-- "yes". I do acknowledge that there are certain self proclaimed Rastas that deny the divinity of Haile Selassie and believe that Jesus is Lord. I praise God for these brothers in the Lord that have seen the truth. So yes, some rastas may be Christians and some Christians do consider themselves rastas. On this point we can agree and I apologize for lumping all Rastafarians into the category of "Selassie Worshipers" in the past. Yet this concession comes nowhere close to justifying this person's slander.

While the most common description of a Rasta is "someone who worships Haile Selassie (Ras Tafari) as Lord," there are various houses of Rastafari, and many even conflict with each other in doctrine. For 14 years I went on mission trips to Jamaica and never met one "Rasta" that denounced the divinity of Haile Selassie. Given my personal experiences, for a very long time I used the general term "Rasta" to describe such a person. But I realize now that there is also a growing fringe of Rasta believers that deny











had done miracles that the disciples, on at least one occasion, had not been able to do (See Mark 9:14-18, 2.

When Jesus said "Do not stop him," it is clear that Jesus' view of discipleship was far more inclusive than the narrow view held by the twelve. Jesus wasn't saying that "if you're a good Buddhist, you will go to heaven," the individual in reference was obviously doing his miracles in the name of Jesus and with the work of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 9:49-50: "Master," said John, "we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us." In this verse John says "us," but Jesus shifts the pronoun to "You" in the next verse (50). This may mean that the man had a relationship to Jesus of which the disciples were unaware. "Do not stop him," Jesus said, "for whoever is not against you is for you."

My accuser said that only "If they are against Jesus they will go to hell," and used this verse as an attempt to prove his point. Yet this verse is not about someone that is against Jesus. It is clearly about someone that is against his disciples. "Whoever is not against you is for you," The Greek is clear that this was spoken in the context of opposition to the disciples' work, NOT Jesus'.

To get such a revelation from this verse is to proof text and build upon the wrong foundation. Beyond this, any such revelation or calling must also be taken in light of the specific context of the passage (as stated above) and the general context of the Bible.

When speaking about himself (and not His disciples), Jesus specified in Luke 11:23 "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters. We must be "with Him."

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#### WORSHIPPING THE RIGHT GOD IN THE WRONG WAY?

How can this individual say that if someone is praying to Jesus, but believes that Haile Selassie IS this Jesus then it is okay? He also stated that this person is merely worshipping the right god in the wrong way--a minor infraction in his mind--an abomination in the eyes of God.

The way my Bible reads is as follows: If I pray to Jesus, ask him to forgive me of my sins and make him Lord of my life--that is salvation. But the second that I think that this same Jesus IS Jim Jones, David Koresh, Prince Immanuel or even Haile Selassie himself, I am being deceived by the prince of darkness. For on the day of Judgment many will say "Lord, Lord," but he will say depart from me, for I never knew you (Mat 7:23).

In Matthew 24, our Lord said to His disciples: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many." (Matthew 24:4-5) And later in verse 24 Jesus states "For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect--if that were possible."

Whether this person is self proclaimed or not, someone that is worshipped as Christ but is not the Messiah is called a "False Christ." I don't care if this person is as godly as Billy Graham. If you pray to Billy Graham and believe that he is the Lord Jesus Christ, you will be very surprised when you reach your final destination after judgment. Hell is not the location of choice among the wise. Yet as they say, "the road to hell is paved with good intentions."

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#### CHRISTIAN-ISH UNIVERSALISM:



Though I am not a member of the TTOI, the above quote best explains my harshly judged intentions. In great "spiritual zeal and earnestness" I have done all things necessary to lead others to "our Savior Jesus."

Imagine if someone said, 10 years ago, "we have found the cure to aids, a disease that has recently ravaged the homosexual community." Give my accuser's approach, he would probably rather debate the validity of the general statement "Homosexual disease" and grossly ignore the word "cure". The fact of the matter is this; Christians are given a cure--a cure for sin and eternal separation from God.

Perhaps my accuser has a serious problem with evangelicals and pastors as a whole because of some bad past experiences he has had, after all, it is not easy being a pastor's kid. If this is the case, I am sorry. But I refuse to be ashamed of (or water down) the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Some may get offended. But the Gospel is called an offense, a stumbling block and foolishness by those who are perishing.

In a recent e-mail to one of our moderators my accuser wrote: "I will also no longer post on the Christafari Message Boards." This is a wise decision that I support. I challenge you to hold to this word and continue your works on your own message board. Anyone that will miss his words is welcome to join him on his own message board on his own site.

One forum moderator summed it up best by stating the following:

"I see you doing your best to destroy any chances of spreading the Gospel of Christ to any who need Him. I see you not as some one that is concerned for the souls of the lost. I see that you want to discredit without trying to build up. You have lowered yourself to a mere accuser of the Brethren.

I have one final word of advice for my accuser. If you wish to stop being called an "accuser," then stop your out-of-context misquotations, off based judgments and remove your 60-page accusation. Then this posting will no longer be necessary.

They will know that we are Christians by our love. A house divided against itself cannot stand. I do truly love you with the compassion of Christ and am sorry to have to answer your challenge, but you demanded it. This is my final response on this matter.

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Filed at the Christafari Research Center, October 28, 2004

[http://www.dubroom.org/christafari/articles/mark\\_mohr\\_response\\_to\\_the\\_essay\\_20041028.pdf](http://www.dubroom.org/christafari/articles/mark_mohr_response_to_the_essay_20041028.pdf)