

Love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave... Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it" (Song of Solomon 8:6-7).

Jesus Himself said that He loved every man and that He would rather leave ninety-nine righteous sheep than allow the one that went astray to remain lost. His apostles and all the great teachers of Christianity have taught this universal love in His name. St. Macary said, "If a man loves all men passionately, but says only about one man that him he cannot love, the man who says this is no more a Christian, because his love is not all-embracing." St. Augustine teaches "If all mankind had been righteous and only one man a sinner, Christ would have come to endure the same cross for this one man, He so loves every individual." The Christian teaching is clear. Communists are men and Christ loves them. So does every man who has the mind of Christ. We love the sinner even though we hate the sin. We know about the love of Christ toward the Communists by our own love toward them.

There are Christians in Communist prisons with fifty pounds of chains on their feet, tortured with red-hot iron pokers, in whose throats spoonfuls of salt had been forced, being kept afterward without water, starving, whipped, suffering from cold - and praying with fervor for the Communists. This is humanly inexplicable! It is the love of Christ, which was poured out in our hearts.

Later, the Communists who had tortured the Christians were sent to prison, too. Under Communism, Communists, and even Communists rulers, are put in prison almost as often as their adversaries. Now the tortured and the torturer were in the same cell. While the non-Christians showed hatred toward their former inquisitors and beat them, Christians took their defense, even at the risk of being beaten themselves and accused of being accomplices with communism. Christians gave away their last slice of bread (we were given one slice a week) and the medicine that could save their lives to a sick Communist torturer who was now a fellow prisoner.

These are the last words of Iuliu Mainu, a Christian and the former Prime Minister of Romania, who died in prison: "If the Communists are overthrown in our country, it will be the most holy duty of every Christian to go into the street and at the risk of his own life defend the Communists from the righteous fury of the multitudes whom they have tyrannized."

Communists have committed and still commit horrors but "love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave... Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it" (Song of Solomon 8:6-7). As the grave insists having all - rich and poor; young and old; men of all races, nations, and political convictions; saints and criminals - so love is all-embracing. Christ, the Incarnate Love, wants all men to come to Him, including the Communists.

From Richard Wurmbrand's "Tortured for Christ"

Gospel message included