

Christianity Under Fire? Why 'Christ Is King' Is at the Center of a Digital War

We live in a broken world where words are weaponized, and even the phrase "Christ is King" has become a point of contention.

A new report from the Network Contagion Research Institute, co-authored by Dr. Jordan B. Peterson and the Rev. Johnnie Moore, warns that "extremist actors have co-opted Christian language" to push "exclusionary ideologies."

This isn't just an academic exercise. The study highlights a five-fold spike in mentions on X of "Christ is King" from 2021 to 2024, particularly around Easter, when researchers say that "roughly 17% of all mentions [were] linked to hateful rhetoric." The report claims that figures such as Nick Fuentes and Candace Owens have amplified the phrase in ways that promote antisemitism.

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Moore, president of the Congress of Christian Leaders, emphasized that while he does not believe the phrase itself is hateful, it has been misused. "I certainly don't believe that it's antisemitic to say Christ is King or Jesus is Lord," he clarified. "It's a Christian phrase, but like all phrases, it can be used by people who hate others in a hateful way."

This is where the real issue lies—not in the phrase itself, but in the battle over its meaning.

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The report acknowledges that "Christ is King" has "deep theological roots in the Christian, but especially, Catholic

tradition, deriving from various New Testament sources.”

However, its argument hinges on how the phrase is used online, suggesting that nearly half of all posts containing it are driven by figures “promoting hateful—and especially antisemitic—narratives.”

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Moore expressed concern over the digital manipulation of religious speech. AI-driven analysis, he noted, helped identify bot activity designed to push antisemitic content and distort public discourse. “There was an avalanche of antisemitic content,” he said, pointing to how bots have also been used to attack figures like Elon Musk and President Donald Trump.

Despite this, Moore remains hopeful. His message for Christians is clear: rather than abandoning “Christ is King” to extremists, believers should reclaim it. “My hope is that many, many millions of Christians would actually say Christ is King ... more than ever ... as a means of, in effect, taking back the phrase,” he says.

This Easter, Christians have an opportunity to do just that. Instead of letting secular institutions dictate the meaning of sacred words, believers can confidently declare the truth: Christ is King—not as a political slogan, but as the eternal reality that has stood for centuries and will stand forever.

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