ARE DAILY MAIL READERS EVIL?

Posted on February 9, 2015 by Eddie

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Category: Mission

Over the past few weeks there has been a great deal written about the demise (or otherwise) of the page three topless photo in the Sun newspaper. The removal of the page three photo is the culmination of a long campaign against it by a variety of pressure groups.

Many Christians have suggested that there should be a boycott of the Sun. Carl Beech had some rather radical thoughts about this suggestion.

> *I can't help but feel however that not many Christians actually read The SunÂ anyway? Iâ€™m not aware of any.*

And how would people react to the boycott?

> *Back to my mates in the pub. If I told them I was boycotting The Sun they would just raise their eyebrows over their pint glass and get back to the dominoes and probably never talk to me again. But - and this is the crucial 'but' - if I told them that I had helped set up a project where men who are about to have sex with an under-age girl in South Asia are thwarted and potentially nicked, then they listen - and in one case even got a bit wet around the eyes.*

Just in case you were worrying, Carl is very much opposed to The Sun's page three photos, but he sees another problem:

> *And there it is - right there. So yes, boycott The Sun by all means (or just persist in never having purchased it anyway) but please think about how we reach the missing millions of working class blokes.*

I'd like to push Carl's piece just a bit further. There is a tendency to lump people together according to the newspapers they read and, more often than not, to dismiss them because of their assumed opinions. Nothing reveals this more clearly than the reaction of Christians on Twitter to the Daily Mail and Daily Mail readers. In order to protect the guilty, I'm not going to actually quote tweets, but I have seen respected members of the clergy say that they despise Daily Mail readers.

For the record, I don't think any more of the Mail than I do of the Sun; much of their output is pernicious. However, the people who read those papers (and the journalists who produce them) are people for whom Jesus died; people who need to hear the message of salvation.

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Carl's piece had a revealing insight into how people sometimes see Christians:

> *once ordered a meal in a restaurant opposite a conference centre.Â The waiter smiled at me.*
>
> *â€œLot of Christians in here tonight.â€*
>
> *Me:- â€œHow do you know?â€*
>
> *â€œI get more complaints, they look miserable, they don't tip and only order tap water 'cos its free.â€*

Are we just miserable, condemning people, do we have something to offer to readers of the Sun and Mail or is our gospel just for those who share our cosy, middle-class, liberal views?