Is The KKK A Religion?



Susan Yolmeh

NEH Summer Institute 2010

"The Many and The One"

The Center For The Study of Religion and American Culture
Indiana University-Perdue University Indiana

Rodger's Klan Past Raises Some Eyebrows New City Commissioner in Lake Wales



Rogers said he wants to be judged by his recent actions, not his distant past. "I am not going to go rehash all that stuff and get into race baiting," he said of his Klan background.



Undated Photo...John Paul Rodgers, meets with other leaders of the United Klans of America.

He joined the Klan in 1963. For many years he headed the United Klans of America. He currently owns a barber/gun shop.

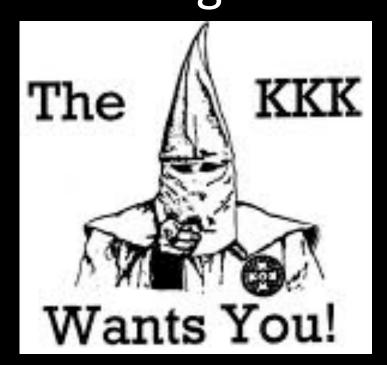


The subject matter and/or images in this slide presentation are not intended for all viewing audiences.

Please make sure that you preview and feel comfortable with these slides before you present this to your audience.



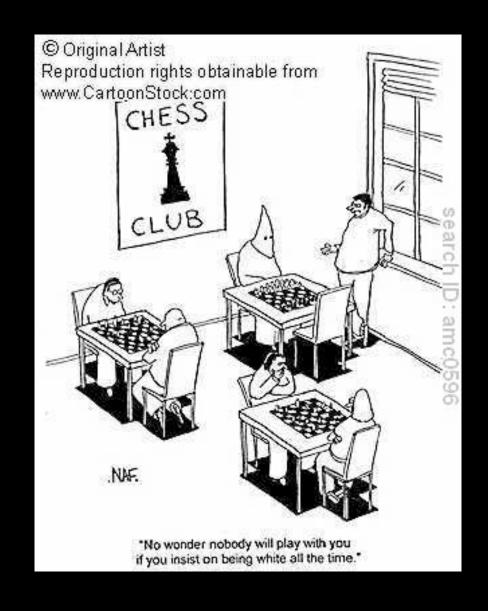
All material was easily found on the internet in the Summer of 2010. Any student; even an elementary student, could have easily found these same images.

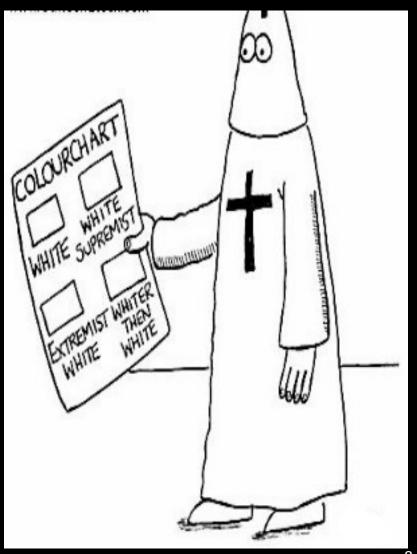


The main objective of this presentation is to allow the viewer to determine if the KKK could be considered a form of a Protestant Christian religion in the United States.



The images came from many different sites on the internet.







All of the text information on the following slides came directly from the official KKK website.

"Even today, when a Klansman speaks, he is exercising the Constitution, keeping strong and immutable the peoples right to speak and publish their ideas."



"There is a race war against whites. But our people-my white brothers and sisters-will stay committed to a non-violent resolution..."



"...That way is the Christian way-law and order-love of family-love of nation. These are the principles of western Christian civilization."



"If I should choose to associate with The Knights what will be required of me? We emphasize ONE requirement for every person who decides to associate with the Knights, and that is that they conduct themselves with Christian character....."



"Today, White Christian children, are taught to be ashamed of their culture. Our children are taught at public expense, theirs is a culture of slavery, bigotry and oppression; they are schooled to be ashamed because they are white."



"The Ku Klux Klan is THE only organization dedicated to preserving white culture! We stand for family values, the American Constitution, freedom of religion and western culture."



"THE KNIGHTS' PARTY PLATFORM

- √ The recognition that America was founded as a Christian nation
- √ The recognition that America was founded as a White nation
- ✓ Actively promote love and appreciation of our unique European (White) culture
- ✓ Restoring individual freedom to Christian America (People should be able to hire who they want, live where they want, and practice the Christian faith as they please.)...."



IRONY

It strikes at the best times