

Listen to Your Enemies

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By Lenny Cacchio

LEE'S SUMMIT, Mo.—"Your nation exploits women like consumer products or advertising tools, calling upon customers to purchase them . . . You plaster your naked daughters across billboards in order to sell a product without any shame. You have brainwashed your daughters into believing they are liberated by wearing revealing clothes, yet in reality all they have liberated is your sexual desire" (Osama bin Laden).

An interesting statement this is, from a man with three wives and a porn stash on his computer.

Maybe he made this statement purely for propaganda and recruiting reasons, and maybe bin Laden was the worst hypocrite north of the Indian Ocean in addition to being a mass murderer, but he makes a salient point that our own religious leaders could and should make.

Think of how America must look if all you know of it is what Madison Avenue and the entertainment industry portray. If you lived in a more traditional society, and a people who hold themselves out as the messengers of freedom asked you to become more like them, how would you react after seeing a Lady Gaga concert?

Sometimes we have to listen to truth wherever we might find it. God can work any way He wants to, sometimes even to the point of letting unsavory characters tell the truth. He did, after all, speak through Balaam's ass.

And, not only that, he gave very accurate prophecies and blessings concerning Israel through that sleazy false prophet Balaam himself (Numbers 22-24).

He used a sorceress to condemn King Saul (1 Samuel 28).

In Jesus' day the high priest Caiaphas, no friend of the fledgling Jesus movement, said that it was expedient that one man should die for the people so that the whole nation would not perish.

John in his gospel points out that this remarkably accurate statement was from God and that even Caiaphas didn't know how profound the statement was (John 11:49-52).

Sometimes your worst enemies can speak the most uncomfortable truths. Bin Laden was a wicked man, but he made a point worth considering.