

## The Time of Living Dangerously

Mahatma Gandhi, once said:

*You Christians look after a document containing enough dynamite to ... turn the world upside down, and bring peace to a battle-torn planet. But you treat it as though it is nothing more than a piece of literature.*

Turning the world upside down is the domain of many advocates, minorities and people of faith whose way of life and set of attitudes are opposed to or at variance with the prevailing social norm.

A group of Brisbane mums set up an independent collective, Dangerous Females, because they are fed up with the incidents of men's violence against women in this country:

*Too often, danger is a word used to restrict and silence women. We're told to mind ourselves, that it's too dangerous for us to be out at night, on our own, wearing that...But, statistics in this country also tell us that it can be very dangerous to be in our own homes. We call ourselves DANGEROUS FEMALES because we want to take back ownership of the word danger. – www.dangerousfemales.com.au*

Christians follow the most dangerous idea in human history.

Peter Hitchens at the Festival of Dangerous Ideas live ABC Q&A event in November 2013 said:

*... the belief that Jesus Christ was the Son of God and rose from the dead and that is the most dangerous idea you will ever encounter ... Because it alters the whole of human behaviour and all our responsibilities. It turns the universe from a meaningless chaos into a designed place in which there is justice and there is hope and, therefore, we all have a duty to discover the nature of that justice and work towards that hope. It alters us all. If we reject It, it alters us all as well. It is incredibly dangerous. It's why so many people turn against it. – www.abc.net.au/qanda/from-the-festival-of-dangerous-ideas/10657962#transcript*

It is also why Pope Francis has explicitly called on Catholics to be countercultural, saying:

*I ask you, instead, to be revolutionaries, I ask you to swim against the tide; yes, I am asking you to rebel against this culture that sees everything as temporary and that ultimately believes you are incapable of responsibility, that believes you are incapable of true love.*

We are called to witness in a radical way – love, compassion, humility and joy – not only through our words but embodied in our actions as well.

We must all be dangerously prepared for our call to counter and confront injustice and offer hope to ensure that the dignity of all people is upheld and the common good is achieved.

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.  
– Jeremiah 29:11



### REFLECTION

- > A simple act of kindness can create a ripple effect. Can you think of creative and radical ways to bring joy and hope into the lives of those you love, work with and serve?

Reference: [w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2013/july/documents/papa-francesco\\_20130728\\_gmg-rio-volontari.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2013/july/documents/papa-francesco_20130728_gmg-rio-volontari.html)