

There can be no restoration of the human family or environment as long as responsible humanity remains in denial of its sin. Sin must be named and confessed to be exorcised. Repentance and ascetic penance is the divine prescription to restore the spiritual and physical health of humankind and the earth. The most appropriate acts of penance are those of reparation and restoration. Humanity must restore the earth. Divine justice demands it, and God's mercy in Christ will make it possible if we repent of our sinful ways and follow Him.

The Good Law, God's Prescription for Our Mortally Polluted World

Mahatma Gandhi summed up traditional Vaishnava social teachings in the following way. He gleaned seven root causes of social evil from his studies in scripture and in life: 1) Wealth without work; 2) Pleasure without conscience; 3) Knowledge without character; 4) Commerce without morality; 5) Science without humanity; 6) Worship without sacrifice; 7) Politics without principles. Gandhi had a great love of the Bible and the Vaishnava scripture, the *Bhagavad Gita*. As a Vaishnava, he recognized his own faith's moral precepts in the teachings of Jesus Christ. One of Gandhi's favorite passages in the *Bhagavad Gita* was Chapter 16, verses 1 to 3, in which God describes the qualities of a believer as fearlessness, purity, wisdom, unity/love, charity, self-control, self-sacrifice, austerity, penance, simplicity, nonviolence, truthfulness, freedom from anger, renunciation, tranquility, aversion to faultfinding, freedom from greed, gentleness, modesty, determination, vigor, forgiveness, fortitude, cleanliness, freedom from envy, and freedom from the desire for honor (*Bhagavad Gita As It Is*, B.B.T Edition, pages 721 and 722).

These are the universal attributes of Eli-Jahu's saints and the qualities we must all seek to attain if we want to be part of the solution instead of part of the problem today. Let us all pray for the courage to strive for this high calling in Christ Jesus. Amen.