

Risk love not war.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark is labelled a Folk Church in The National Constitution from 1849. The membership is 84 percent of the population. Membership in non Lutheran Churches amounts to less than 2 percent of the population. Even though since 1849 the constitution has foreseen that the Folk Church should have its own legal leadership, for a number of reasons the state still serves as legislator, administrator and legal subject for the Folk Church. As a result, the Folk Church has no official teaching, except for what can be found in the Bible and the Lutheran Creeds (Confessio Augustana and The Small Catechism by Luther). Thus, there are no official statements from the Folk Church concerning modern ethical and social questions, including the war in Iraq.

Many church members, pastors and bishops have of course expressed their personal opinions on this war, where Denmark – in coalition with USA and England – is officially at war for the first time since 1864. If you don't say anything you are counted as supporter of the right wing government, and its way of fulfilling its own slogan from the election campaign in late 2001: Time for Change, taken over from Tony Blair! Thus most who have raised their voices have been arguing against the war, often with the same sort of arguments as e.g. most European leaders. The majority of the population and thus formally also the majority of the church members, however, has not withdrawn its support to the present government, which has made us a nation at war. Even so it is remarkable that the same Danish ethnic-nationalistic government, which is preventing refugees and immigrants from settling in Denmark, is participating in a war in a nation far away from Denmark.

Some of us think that we should hesitate much more before making war, and definitely we should have done so in this case. Unfortunately the English language is wrong when forming the slogan "Make love, not war". In fact love is not something, that you can make. The Christian task is not to make love but to "Risk love, not war". Love is a risky and costly affair, but war has once more proved to be even more risky and costly.

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