

less speak. Ezekiel 2:1-11.

11. Great moral responsibility are upon those who with-hold speaking because of fear of offended people. Ezekiel 2:17-21.
12. Conviction is a thing of the heart and is therefore personal. Acts 2:37.
13. Here are examples of freedom of expression being attacked Acts 4:1-7; 6:9-14.
14. But freedom of expression is a God-given freedom that God Himself uses, no one must interfere with it Acts 4:16-21.
15. Freedom of movement is sometimes curtailed to stop freedom of expression, but God always intervenes in favor of freedom of expression Acts 5:17-20.
16. Here is clear proof of further attacks upon freedom of expression showing that intolerance starts there before it goes on to attack one's religious beliefs Acts 5:21-29.
17. Fighting against religious freedom and free-dom of expression is cautioned as maybe fighting against God. Acts 5:33-40.
18. Offence at a teaching led to murder because there was no tolerance. Acts 7:54-60.
19. Attacks against freedom of expression quickly descend into attacks against free-dom of belief. Acts 8:1,3; Acts 9:1,2.
20. Government sponsored persecution is always punished by God. Acts 12:1-4,21-23.
21. The public good, the good of society, or social peace is overlooked for personal freedoms (since those who were preaching had the Truth). Acts 14 1-6, 16:16-22.
22. Religious freedom and freedom of belief recognized by a Roman official an example to secular governments Acts. 18:12-17.
23. A Roman official urges tolerance to the people to deal with an offense. Acts 19:23-29,33-

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PERSONAL FREEDOMS OR OFFENSE AND PERSONAL GOALS



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1. When Jesus makes us free, we are free indeed. John 8:36; Galatians 5:1.
2. What are "Personal Freedoms"? This can be described as freedoms that are of a personal nature, that is, freedoms that are based on individual understanding, conviction and choice together, for their activity, and as such cannot be protected except by education in the Rights of others.
3. **Personal Freedoms** are:
 - (a) Freedom of Thought. This means that one can think whatever one wants as a natural God-given ability.
 - (b) Freedom of Belief. This means that one is free to believe what one wants as a natural ability.

- (c) Freedom of Expression. This is the ability to agree or to disagree, publicly expressing either attitude. This is also a natural God-given ability.
 - (d) Freedom of Movement. The ability to wherever one chooses to.
4. Freedom of Expression if limited by one law, the forbiddance of slander or libel; which is an attack against a person's Right to exist through words—that are lies. The Bible identify this as verbal murder and condemns it Exodus 21:14.
 5. Important points to note:
 - a. To be offended is to disagree with a person's words and or actions to the point of being emotionally upset or angry,
 - b. The protection of offense by law is only necessary in the case of slandering or libeling an individual.
 - c. People will always be offended for even the simplest of things, and most often against things which is your personal freedom to do. Such offense must never become an issue of legislation, but must be tempered by tolerance, looking the other way, or by response in civility.
 - d. Protecting the public good is no excuse for limiting personal freedoms, for this is in fact attacking the public good by hindering its right to exercise its personal freedoms to the fullest.
 - e. To legislate against "personal freedoms" in an effort to whittle it down, is to either become a (i) "Thought police," policing people's thoughts (ii) "Speech police" policing what people say, and (iii) This usually leads to policing people's beliefs which is having "Religious police." But whose religion or plural of religions will police other religions? This is against religious liberty and is religious discrimination.
 - f. To legislate against thoughts, expressions and beliefs constitute extreme tyranny and it engenders persecution. This is also intolerance sponsored by the government.
 - g. To regulate thoughts, speech and beliefs is to play God to people, and interfere with peoples conscientious worship to their God
 - h. Such regulations also hinder the invention of new ideas that may be sound and capable of overthrowing existing ideas that hinder human progress, since the aim of such legislation is usually against criticism, which is freedom of expression. Certainly this

- cannot be in the interest of the "public good" or "collective goals".
- i. Legislating laws that protect "public offense" against freedom of expression as criticism, is always a covert assault upon a "belief system", and this always leads to open persecution against a belief.
 - j. All former manifestations of persecution in history and State intolerance, has always started in the name of the "public good", "collective goals", "national unity" or the "preservation of public order." This has been the justification to destroy personal freedoms, but they were really attempts to protect a particular doctrine or system of belief, and to defend those only who adhered to that system of belief.
 - k. Thought-policing, speech-policing and beliefs-policing commits people to jail, because of their teachings and religious practice. This is persecution and state sponsored intolerance.
 - l. Rather than offense (slander and libel excluded) government and institutions must strengthen the spirit of tolerance in society. Non-legislation of laws against "personal freedoms" is meant to encourage men to conduct themselves in civility when offended, seeing that it is a genocidal offense for government to play God by law to the people.
 - m. Laws hindering criticism of religion is government acting as a de-intelligizing force in the state, which results in the lack of progress of thought and social upliftment, and causes social degradation. This certainly cannot be for the good of society or in the public's interest.
 - n. Tolerance in a state heals offensiveness consequentially, and make strong minds of the people.

Scripture Injunctions

6. Religion is a heart or mind matter, a matter of conviction and freedom of thought and belief. 1 Chronicles 28:9.
7. Human thoughts are to obey only Christ, not government (acting as God). 2 Corinthians 10:5.
8. Only God really knows man's thoughts, thus no thought policing is needed or makes sense. Psalms 94:11; Matthew 9:4.
9. Not only did Jesus not come for the preservation of public peace. He warned that the message of the Gospel will cause private and public offense. Matthew 10:34-36; John 16:1-4.
10. When God tells us to preach we are to expect opposition by offended people, but with freedom of expression we are to neverthe-