

The Truth Will Set You Free: Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Religion

Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion are among the fundamental individual liberties which are protected at a constitutional and international level. However, as a hierarchy of rights appears to be emerging, these rights are being challenged in relation to employment, education, family freedoms, and religious institutions. As freedom of conscience is increasingly under attack, current trends across Europe will be examined. We will look at the opportunities and challenges presented to Christians today. Do Christians still have the right to a voice in the public square and how can we engage with contemporary culture? We believe that Jesus is Lord and so, using biblical examples, we will learn how we can speak the Truth and work for the good of society.

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I. Introduction

As Christians in 2019 we face many challenges to our faith, but also amazing opportunities. In examining these we will share examples and reassert our right to speak into the public square unashamedly.

II. God's Plan for Society

A. Human Flourishing
Genesis 1&2

B. Authorities Established by God
Romans 13:1

C. Our Responsibility
1 Peter 3:1

- D. The Implications
How shall we act?

III. Current trends emerging in Europe

- A. Current Trends
 - 1. A hierarchy of Rights
 - 2. A changing Europe

IV. The opportunities and challenges for Christians

- A. Attacks on Churches
- B. Education
 - 1. The role of the State
 - 2. The Casey Review in the UK
 - 3. Germany – Universities
Wunderlich Case
- C. Life Issues
 - 1. Sweden – Mr. Grimmark Case
 - 2. British Pharmaceutical Council

V. How can Christians engage in an alien culture?

- A. Proclaim Gospel Truth
- B. Testify to the Gospel

VI. Biblical truth and its impact

A. The Great Commission

B. Remember the overarching biblical principle

C. How do we do this?

1. By God's Power
2. Weakness transformed by God
3. With Obedience
4. With Integrity and faith
5. With Action
6. With care and wisdom

VII. Conclusion: The Privilege of Being Christ's Servants