

Religious Liberty: A Constitutional Right



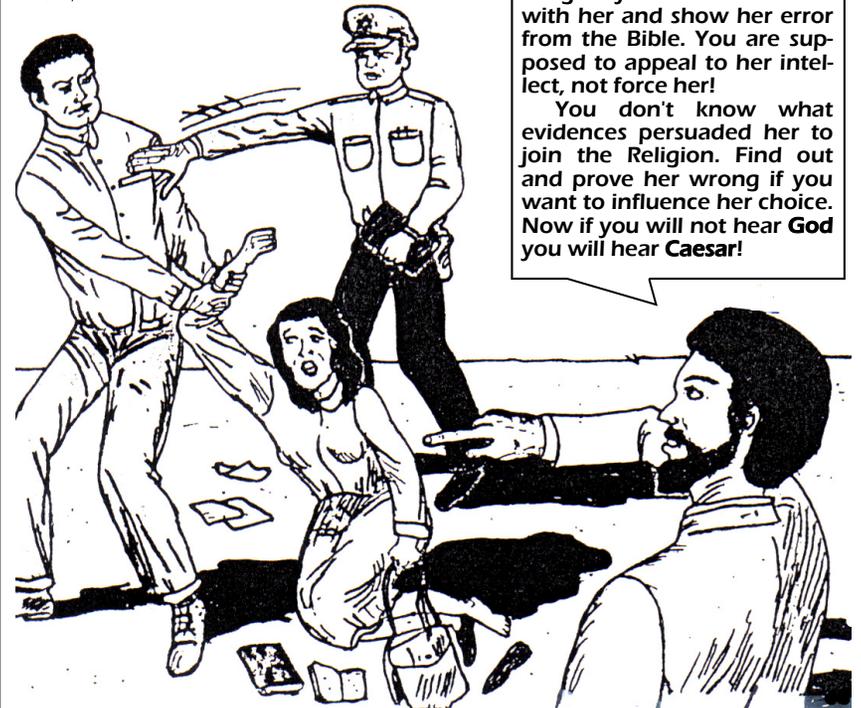
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Hello! I'm a police officer! Let her go, you are breaking the law! She has the Right of "...Freedom of Conscience and Religious Belief and Observance." **The Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago, p. 15.**

I don't want you in this Religion... Let's go... I'll beat you!

Excuse me sir! Let the woman go! You are not a savior to her, she have her God-endowed Rights. If you think she is in the wrong Religion you should sit down with her and show her error from the Bible. You are supposed to appeal to her intellect, not force her!

You don't know what evidences persuaded her to join the Religion. Find out and prove her wrong if you want to influence her choice. Now if you will not hear God you will hear Caesar!



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RELIGIOUS LIBERTY: A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT

We live in an age of increasing lawlessness, anarchy is sweeping away all law, not only divine but human. The crimes in this country surprise us by virtue of their boldness and evil. But while it is true that the religions of the day have generally rejected Christ and say only "...Lord, Lord, and do not the things which (He) say..." Luke 6:46, these religions are false because they have only "...a form of godliness but deny... the power thereof..." 2 Timothy 3:5. Thus they have failed society, they have not the power that gives men victory over sin, thus they are not "...the salt of the earth..." anymore. Matthew 5: 13.

With them there have been "...a falling away..." (2 Thessalonians 2: 3) from the truth and from holy living, thus **they** too have encouraged the lawlessness in society. In the light of all this, the only way to **restrain** habitual sinners who do damage to the rights of others, is the law of the land.

In other words, those who would not hear **God** must hear **Caesar**, this is why we are told to be "...subject unto the higher powers... (for they are)... ordained of God... (and are) not a terror to good works, but to evil... for he beareth not the sword in vain... (as he is to) execute wrath upon him that doeth evil." **Rom. 13: 1-5**.

However, Caesar gains his just right to govern justly from the just consent of the governed, and the principles with which the whole nation is governed, is outlined in the constitution of that country.

There are basic "fundamental rights and freedoms" enshrined in all constitutions, including that of **Trinidad and Tobago**, but the majority of people do not know what these rights are, thus they **transgress** them and bring unnecessary conflict which could be easily resolved when they do not want to hear God. Time and time again some **parents**, or other people have broken the law of the land by their treatment to men and women who have been preaching the **real gospel**.

When the truth is preached, they usually threaten the preacher not to preach or they will do some form of violence to him. But not only did Christ say that this would happen to those who preach the truth (**Matt. 5: 11,12; Jn. 16: 1-3**), but the violent man needs to be informed of the **constitutional rights** of the preacher. He needs to know that the constitution projects the preacher his vocation from such unlawful behaviour.

The constitution says: "whereas the people of Trinidad and Tobago - (a) have affirmed that the nation of Trinidad and Tobago is founded upon principles that acknowledge the supremacy of God, faith in fundamental human rights and freedoms, the position of the family in a society of free men and free institutions, the dignity of the human family are endowed by their creator..." **The Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago, p. 10**.

The word "inalienable" simply means: "incapable of being alienated, taken away, or transferred to another." **The Lexicon Webster Dictionary, Vol 1, pp. 483-484**. And thus emphasizes that, as a living person, no one should transgress your rights, it belongs to each living individual, and no man have been given arbitrary power over anyone of them!

The people of this country, (including some police officers and army men), need to "...recognize that men and institutions remain free only when freedom is founded upon respect for moral and spiritual values and the rule of law..." **The Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago, p. 11**. The man who threatens the preacher need to hear Caesar if he would not hear God; he needs to know that the constitution guarantees "...the right of the individual to life, liberty, security of the person..." Ibid., p. 15. Thus to threaten the preacher's life or security is to break the law if such threats are carried out."

He should not threaten the preacher to stop preaching, for the minister has "... 'freedom of thought and expression...' Ibid, (emphasis added), the minister could express himself. If the violent man does not want to hear he can simply remove from the scene of the preaching.

Those parents or husbands who use brutality to stop their children or wives or family from accepting the truth should know that the individual has the right to "... freedom of conscience and religious belief and observance, freedom of thought". Ibid. Some lawless persons may even threaten the minister forbidding him to come in a certain district, but the violent man is breaking the law because the preacher has the right of "... freedom of movement..." Ibid, so long as it is not unto the man's property, since each person has the right of "... enjoyment of property." Ibid.

Police officers must see to it that they do not encourage the preacher to compromise his rights, but encourage the lawless one to respect the rights of men. If the constitution is at least adhered to, then a lot of evil would be stopped by Caesar while God's ministers pursue the course of exercising their constitutional rights.