

**QUOTABLE QUOTES
ON
RELIGIOUS LIBERTY,
FREEDOM OF
EXPRESSION AND
RELIGIOUS
INTOLERANCE**



NYRON MEDINA

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Freedom of Expression
and Religious Intolerance**

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PREFACE

May the grace of God be with all the readers of this little booklet on Religious Liberty. It is designed to explain the real meaning of terms like "religious liberty", "freedom of expression" and "intolerance", as God sees it. The final chapter is meant to provide quotations for anyone to use in situations where Religious Liberty, freedom of expression and intolerance comes into question or discussion. The booklet is provided for the public at large to use as a textbook and as a tool against those who either express anti-rights sentiments or seek to influence Government legislation along such lines. Herein are expressed ideas that shall preserve the Freedoms and Rights which our forefathers have fought so hard for. May God bless all readers now and forever more. Amen.

Nyron Medina.

CHAPTER ONE

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Religious Liberty is the first freedom. It is the most supreme Right of any civilized society, because men formed governments when their consciences dictate that their free Rights should be protected in communities against tyrannical and disorderly elements. They do not form governments to assault the conscience, since it is the vessel for God alone to place His merchandise of Truth.

Only tyrants and conspiratorial individuals have fears for religious liberty. In the exercise of religious liberty God is bound to express disapproval for such crimes that wound people and destroy the social order. Thus when religious liberty is assaulted, it is God who is being ultimately assaulted.

Religious Liberty can be likened unto a bowl of soup, which has among other things, freedom of expression and tolerance.

Religions are spread in the following ways:

- (a) When its adherents perceive that their God wants people to know His Truth and to bless and save humanity.
- (b) By the free expression of its tenets through practice and preaching, and
- (c) When, although certain parts of it create of-

fense, it (offense) is limited by toleration. Thus Religious Liberty on an imperfect earth, entails freedom of expression and the exercise of tolerance.

Laws that are enacted to, in any way, hinder the free expression of religion are always against Religious Liberty.

The blasphemy of a religion is a religious tenet. Those who do not believe that religion, but believe opposite to its teachings will not count speaking against that religion as blasphemy, but will count speaking against their own religion as blasphemy.

Different religions arise primarily as a protest against the tenets of other established religions which fosters a climate of a pluralistic religious society with each religion contending for supremacy.

Government must make no law that embraces the blasphemy of one religion or all religions put together, and *no* degree of blasphemy should be considered. If this was to be the case, then a religious dogma (i.e. blasphemy) would be legislated for all, including those that do not believe in that dogma.

What is this, but the curtailment of Religious Liberty. A blasphemy law will make a crime of the free exercise of religions, of freedom of expression and of a doctrine that advocates criticism or protest against another doctrine of religion that one perceives to be inimical to the salvation of a person. If followed it

would also stop the process of the multiplication of new religions and is thus anti-pluralistic. In matters of the blasphemy of a religion, God who knows all things is the best judge. It is He who gives Truth to preach. Therefore no man should be judged guilty for God's initiative, and God is able to protect Himself from blasphemy without government's help.

When men seek to legislate an attitude of acceptance or rejection of some religious dogma, Religious Liberty is infringed upon, and government assumes the role of a preacher by law.

Why is Religious Liberty so important? We all live in a sinful and imperfect world, and through this, men may invent all types of religions and ways of salvation to suit their fancy and pride. Men often invent dogmas out of their ignorance of certain facts and perverted emotions. Religious Liberty supposes that God may be displeased with the conflicting and Babylonian doctrines and religions of men, which lead them to damnation, so He may at some time send the real Truth to correct them of their false doctrines to grant them salvation. This implies that one has to preach against other doctrines and religions that God has not sent. Hence the climate must be left free for the entrance of God's teachings, whatever they may really be, affirming the need for Religious Liberty.

Therefore Religious Liberty protects us from finding ourselves fighting against God by legislation, and from forbidding the people from accepting and fol-

lowing the Truths of God, at the loss of their salvation, by law. To hinder Religious Liberty because one believes that God speaks through all religions and that all are from Him, so that no man must speak against another religion, is not only to have an exclusive religious dogma, But to legislate it at the expense of an opposing religious belief, claiming to speak for God by legislation, is thus to legislate religious intolerance.

CHAPTER TWO

ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

In the history of ideas, freedom of expression has afforded us a wide variety of philosophies, doctrines, sayings, etc. Some are conflicting, some similar and others original, because expression is three-dimensional. In all realms of speech one can either speak ideas that are:

- Original to other ideas,
- Similar to other ideas, or
- Opposite to and thus opposed to other ideas.

This is being three-dimensional. Freedom of expression has given to us a wide slate of ideas to learn lessons and to choose from. Had freedom to express one's views been suppressed successfully in history, this would not have been possible.

Ground breaking ideas arise when men formulate new ideas that challenge the conventional beliefs and assert their right to freely express these new ideas amidst protests, objections, outrage, and even during the existence of legislation that set up checks and balances to suppress new ideas.

Experience teaches us that in the past when governments or established religions attacked Religious Liberty, it often targeted freedom of expression. This has not so much been against *new ideas* or *ideas similar to prevailing ones*, but has most often been against *ideas that are opposed to, that challenged,*

and attacked established ones, denouncing them to be invalid and erroneous. Therefore, intolerance has often targeted freedom of expression and ideas that are opposed to established dogma, assaulting the three dimensional nature of human expression in an imperfect world. Freedom of expression is thus a right that government should in no way hinder by any form of legislation.

Service to God includes the free expression of religious ideas, historical and/or social concepts as they relate to religion, because God Himself decreed that man should preach the messages He reveal to them. No man is to stand as an executioner of punishment, to those who speak things that are contrary to his beliefs, or who preaches that another religion is wrong.

No man or government has the authority to forbid or by legislation, hinder the free expression of a man's belief, for by so doing he shall find himself interfering in matters of conscience and service to God. Thus freedom of expression is also a matter of service to God and of honesty to one's conscience.

Government should concern itself with protecting religious liberty and freedom of expression, not with penalizing the expression of ideas, which is the sole right of God alone who has absolute monopoly over truth. Sometimes ideas expressed under freedom of expression may be wrong and injurious, but the respect for freedom and the granting of it, since it is the outlet of conscience, will in due time under God correct the errors, and God will judge the perpetrator.

But government is not to interfere with freedom of expression, which is the free right of the conscience.

When government attacks the right of the free press, because of severe criticism of its policies, it is freedom of expression that is attacked. This need not be done, since under free expression government can correct the criticism especially since truth is always victorious and will always vindicate government's policies. However if governments do evil, free expression puts them in check, lest a host of injustices be perpetrated to the effect of civil disorder.

Everyone, has the right to express themselves in the way they see fit, whether it be ironic or polemic, whether passive or in a very strong sense, but consideration must at the same time be given to *public morality with no obscenity or indecency and the rights of others*. Within these just limits, of methods of expression, no legislation shall be enacted against freedom of expression, the laws of libel being taken into consideration.

Offensiveness is a natural human reaction and is sometimes just, given the material of what is being said against a religion or government. However, freedom of speech shall not be abridged because of such offense, and neither because of fear of the incitement of the public. Such fear is already dealt with by laws that forbid acts of anarchy, disorder and violence. In cases of offence, *tolerance* corrects its excesses.

Anyone or government that seeks to appease offence by interfering with freedom of expression, removes the ethic of tolerance and opens the way for civil anarchy when the offence continues.

CHAPTER THREE

ON INTOLERANCE

The idea, that intolerance means "to speak against another religion", implies that one must accept another religion as true and accurate, although it contradicts one's teachings and dogma. Or, at best, if one does not accept the teachings of another religion, at least one must not voice criticisms against it.

The first position encourages hypocrisy, while the latter hinders the spirit of protest, free exchange of ideas, and freedom of expression. Things which must exist under a genuine democracy.

No one has the right to have "thought control" over his fellowmen, thus no man should require that he must have respect for another man's religion. What if that religion propagates revolting rites that bring nausea to the mind? Should we respect it? No, not at all, our duty is to rescue the adherents of that religion from rites that destroy the soul. Thus we must speak against that religion, in love for them.

Respect for another person's religion ought not to be commanded by law or force. Respect is always earned by the high morality and workable relevant nature of a religion's dogmas and life style.

However, it is *people* that must be respected, because under God, all men have equal Rights and are thus equal. All have the Right to religious liberty, the

Right to life and the Right to Private Property and its enjoyment, thus each must be respected on this accord, and in no way can the first Right be respected if intolerance is defined as expressing one's opinion and belief against another religion, not if this erroneous way of defining words be legislated. The very concept of intolerance now being propagated is self-contradictory and philosophically absurd. Those who espouse this perverted meaning would cite religious pluralism and to some extent inclusivism, as sound, but they would denounce what they call religious fundamentalism or exclusivism as a sickness to globalistic trends. Thus they themselves are "intolerant" to the fundamentalist. This is clear proof that the new definition is unsound and must not be allowed to become the new paradigm shift in people's consciousness. When the word intolerance became vogue in the reformation era, it was to express government persecution of religions not legalized by the State, and that protested against the false doctrines and excesses of Roman Catholicism.

Ever since that time, until now, whenever religious minorities were prevented from the propagation and practice of their religious tenets by government's intervention (whether by fines, detention, imprisonment, death, or simply by various forms of harassment); this has been called intolerance. However, never had that word embraced "speaking against another religion". This is a new meaning that is under the United Nation's influence and agenda and is fast becoming the paradigm of society. The very Establishment Clause of the United States Bill of Rights

which reads: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof ..." shows the meaning of the word "intolerance" and conversely "tolerance". The Clause expresses the gist of tolerance by government, and what the government must do to constitute intolerance. Thus we must abscond the United Nation's new meaning for the retainance of our historical knowledge and sanity. Whenever government legislation creates a new meaning, then it creates a new crime and makes conscientious practitioners into criminals, and these practitioners may in fact be uplifting peoples' consciousness' to truth and uprightness, while in the estimation of the law they are criminals.

Legislating the idea that "you must not speak against another persons religion" in what ever form - even as "discrimination", is not only a lie, but is in fact the beginning of government's intolerance. As well as, to espouse the reasons for this travesty as "the preservation of public order" is to legislate in favor of those who would really misbehave and are thus intolerant against the free natural rights of men. Such a law would also reflect government's intolerance towards minority religions while claiming to act against intolerance; which makes government a gross hypocrite. The best and only noble path for a government to adopt, is to stay out of religious business and to preserve the free Rights of the people, without which, a nation cannot progress.

CHAPTER FOUR

QUOTABLE QUOTES

Christ said "You shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free." Satan knows this also, and to attack the Truth by obscurity, he implements a confusing array of errors, and when the Truth is presented in contrast to these errors and thus begins to deny their validity, Satan moves governments to interfere with Religious Liberty, in an effort to hinder the Truth. Therefore, an assault against Religious Liberty or freedom of expression is an assault against the Truth.

No government has anything to lose by allowing freedom of expression and Religious Liberty, except their errors and excesses, which, when removed in reforms, will ensure their retention of political power. Whosoever therefore abridges freedom of expression and Religious Liberty commits suicide, because they seek security in a web and cover of lies, and have become a god unto themselves in their morass of error and tyranny.

Only tyrants fear the Truth, thus they use law, government institutions and some form of military force, to attack or restrain Religious Liberty and freedom of expression.

People have nothing to lose but their chains of political and religious oppression. Religions have nothing to lose but their errors and superstition by the full guarantee of Religious Liberty and freedom of expression. As long as God exists and His Love for the human family is pragmatic, there will always be efforts on His part to uplift men from the cesspool of error and corruption that is common to an imperfect world.

What does freedom of expression and Religious Liberty ensure? They ensure that the Truth would have free, full and untrammelled display to the uplifting of all its believers. They also ensure the reformation of the status quo away from usurpations of authority, monopolies of favoritism, wealth and power, and discrimination. Therefore, freedom of expression and Religious Liberty serve the just interests of all, except the delusions and pretensions of the tyrant.

How does God deal with religious deceptions and pretensions that condemn the deceived believer? He deals with them by the presentation of truths that exposes the deceptions, and tears away the robes of pretensions, exposing the morass of errors and destruction beneath. He (God) also ensures freedom of expression and Religious Liberty in a State so that His work of saving men may be prosecuted without hindrance. Therefore, an abridgement of freedom of expression and Religious Liberty constitute an assault upon God's work of salvation to erring human-

ity. Truth is thus the target of intolerance.

A penny for your thoughts, and laws for your silence.

If a religion is true, no amount of criticisms can destroy it, if it is false, no amount of State protection through the abridgement of Religious Liberty and freedom of expression can save it. A government not free in mind, will keep a people not free in mind by restrictive and oppressive legislation.

When men become offended by criticisms and use the law to protect their hurt emotions, then you have the flight or hurting of freedom of expression and Religious Liberty. If criticisms are Truth, then though they hurt, yet do they heal when believed, but if criticisms be error, then Truth will hurt it because freedom of expression and Religious Liberty exist for our help.

All men should be free to profess, and by reasoning and propagation, develop and spread their opinions whether they be religious or scientific. To subject these to legislation is to hinder freedom of expression and Religious Liberty, which, if done, hinders

social progress and the reformation of religious degradation and despotism.

*In an imperfect world, speech is three-dimensional. We either speak: **original ideas, similar ideas, or opposing ideas.** He who imposes laws to stop the expression of opposing ideas, not only limits the dimensions, but by his action expresses an opposing idea, thus he would rob from others that which he himself uses the liberty to do.*

When wicked men in government wants to have their way without just dissent, toleration is the first victim. To hate freedom is to rob yourself of its uplifting benefits.

How does a strong intellect oppose error or what he deems to be blasphemous? Not with the legislation of laws, but with that which his intellect finds pleasure and development in - with knowledge. No laws against Religious Liberty and freedom of expression can effectively deal with error or blasphemy. Tolerance soon sounds the death of these undesirables, because through it the Truth acts as a strong assassin.

Criticism opposes criticism, but intolerance robs the field of fair play.

When there is no toleration of criminals, crime and lawlessness cannot strive, when there is no toleration of opposing opinions, criminal knowledge strives. An officer for the criminal, and Truth for the falsehood.

Laws are meant to protect citizens from the criminal element, and in a just society this type of intolerance is the peace of society. It is natural to counteract what one deems to be error with opposing opinions; this is our right and it is legitimate in an imperfect world. But when laws are made to prevent opposing ideas, be it in religion or politics, these laws turn men into criminals, and enemies of the State who exercise their legitimate right; thus it is that intolerance in law that makes criminals of conscientious objectors.

No one is beholden to tolerate an opposing idea, but one is in fact beholden to tolerate the legal tolerance that allows the existence of the opposing opinion.

When Religious Liberty and freedom of expression are abridged in any way for the peace and security of the state those laws would necessitate the institution of 'thought police'. It is not opinions expressed that are to be judged lawless, it is actions that transgress man's three major Rights.

Freedom of expression and Religious Liberty create a political climate whereby one can attack or criticize ideas, values, actions and doctrines that one may see to be untrue and thus harmful. This is therefore a legitimate action in an imperfect world where men, through selfishness and lack of careful thought, or through speculation make mistakes of actions, ideas, values and doctrines. Thus no government can abridge these freedoms except they accept the current ideas, values, actions and doctrines to be flawless, and they themselves to be without fault and to be God.

Religious Liberty that provides the solution for ideas, values and doctrines that the government deem untrue cannot be corrected by force, it is the government action of ensuring freedom of expression and correction.

When a society is degraded by errors and superstition, and traditions keep a people in darkness and ignorance, and hinders social growth and moral upliftment, Religious Liberty and freedom of expression are the best action and training, especially if it is administered by the government that can open the way for the medicine to cure society, it is the mind-set of the criminal that steals, whether he robs people of their lives, their property, or their freedoms. All are criminal acts to be legislated against, and the role of government is to protect society from the loss of these freedoms. Criminals may occupy no position in society, or they may occupy all offices in a country, even the highest office.

How does government insecurity manifest itself? When it becomes intolerant and hinders freedom of expression and Religious Liberty. Therefore government becomes more pragmatic and is forced to explore new ideas and solutions when the laws of a country enforce freedom of expression and Religious Liberty, and government defend itself by the use of these freedoms and not by tampering with them. It is then clearly seen that freedom of expression and Religious Liberty are the best antidote to cure inept government.

When a religion is insecure and cannot defend itself by its own doctrines, even though it has the freedom

of expression and Religious Liberty to do so, it seeks government to remove those freedoms that it has no use for but rather has become a threat. These freedoms are the bread of society. Thus when the bread of society becomes the poison of one man, then he should look carefully into his plate to see the good food, for his own food is his poison.

Government is not to protect religions. It is to protect Religious Liberty and freedom of expression, which allow the religion to protect itself by its teachings and practices. The Truth content of a religion, its moral uprightness and its practical success recommends that religion to the public. But if government interferes in any way with freedom of expression and Religious Liberty to protect any religion/s, then government interference becomes the effort of others to cover up the evident inefficiencies and sins of that religion.

God never asked any government for protection of His honor and respect. He is able by His power to command such, and is not dependent on any petty human law which at best, can only encourage hypocritical compliance and formalism. Government is not to be God's judge and executioner of ideas that He is against. God is Truth, and by Truth He is able to dispense error in the willing and penitent aspirant. This, no human law can do; therefore to curb freedom of expression and Religious Liberty, the protection of God cannot be realized.

If God were to require governments to curb Religious Liberty and freedom of expression, in order to protect His majesty and honor, then God would have something to hide about Himself that he does not want us to know. To allow for a free flow of information can do nothing in reality to a God who is Truth, He can't help but be honored as His Glory is proved by the propagation of knowledge. False religions not only hinder light that enlighten the conscience, but hinder the freedoms that are used to expose it.

How does a government set up a new inquisition? By enacting laws that would penalize a person from uttering what he normally would, under freedom of expression and Religious Liberty. Religion held in the hands of government protection, condemns itself of weak hands to protect it.

Government's religious opinions are not superior to that of the average man, since God is no respecter of persons. Thus no government could justifiably restrict Religious Liberty and freedom of expression because it is used to criticize the religious views agreed by the government. The facts are, governments of the past have been wrong, not only in their religious views, but also in their persecution of dissenters; what difference is the past from today? None.

Who is the final judge of absolute Truth in all things? God alone; for it is He who will judge all men, and condemn those who have been creators and propagators of lies. Government then cannot curb freedom of expression and Religious Liberty as an effort to stop the propagation of lies, half-truths and innuendoes without playing God; for even the men who make up government shall be judged by God, and as they shall be judged, so also shall they who deceive government by their opinions.

When are men absolved from obeying government? When government legislation stands in the way of God and in the way of the consciences of men in religious matters.

When God says to speak and government says not to speak, we should rather obey God than men, and God it is that shall resurrect those who rather obey Him than men.

A nation that cannot tolerate criticism is a nation that cannot improve and progress in its national life. A religion that refuse to tolerate criticism is a dead and decaying religion, unable to progress on the pathway of reform and the sanctification of its adherents. Should government legislation protect such

a religion in its state by legislating against free critics? I think not.

Intolerance has a destructive effect upon the two parties. Upon those who are receiving the intolerance, and those who are being intolerant. Those who are receiving the intolerance, experience loss of private property, loss of personal freedoms, great discomfort and sometimes even loss of life; while those who are being intolerant, suffer loss of their consciences, destroy their ethical behavior, develop gross insincerity and become murderers of ideas that may uplift humanity. But such must not forget that they also have to face God in the judgment.

When persecution attacks the human body it is because intolerance is attacking the ideas of that body. He who does not want to hear can shut his ears, he that does not want to see can shut his eyes, and he that does not want to speak can shut his mouth, this is the tolerant response to criticism. But whoso shut other people's mouths from speaking, shut other people's ears from hearing and blocks other people's eyes from seeing, that person is intolerant seeing that they were not given charge over another person's organs of receiving information.

In an imperfect world progress allows for criticism, while tolerance gives time for criticism to work success.

It is in the soil of tolerance that Truth grows and error perishes, to interfere with that soil is to kill Truth.

The destruction of the peace of a nation is the intolerance of its government. When that government loses power the people of that nation rejoices.

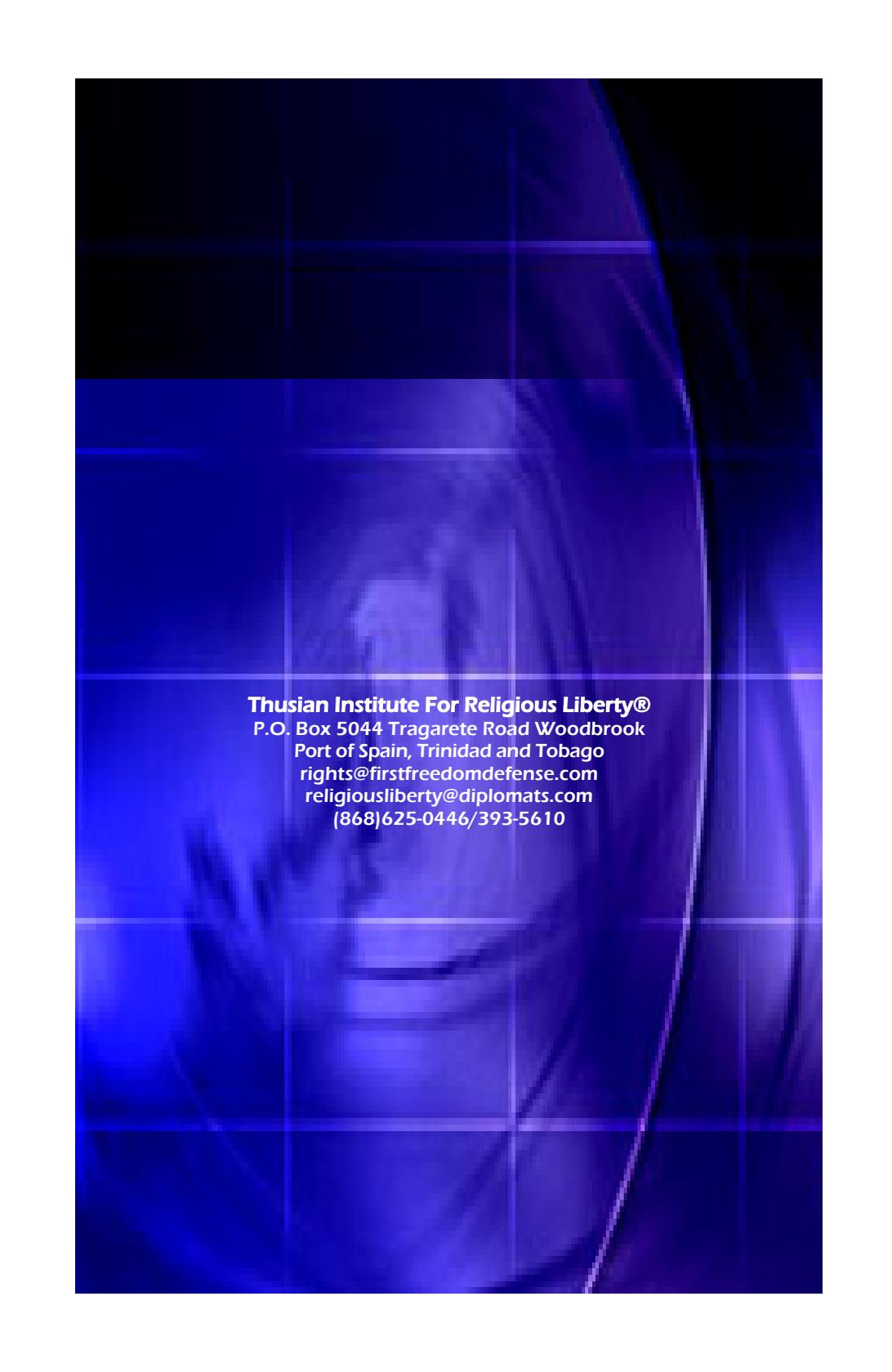
When men hate truth they tend to be intolerant, because intolerance is the weapon that attacks truth.

Truth is the lifeblood of a society and tolerance is the temperature that allows it to work, but when men enact laws to limit the flow of information and ideas, they introduce clots that starve the organism of society and so a break down would soon follow.

Since Truth is not a production of the mind of man, but comes as a direct revelation from God through his Spirit, whosoever by intolerance seeks to stop the

Truth from being preached, finds himself fighting against God, and will not stand in the last judgment.

In the history of ideas we see that when tolerance exists, a multitude of ideas flourish and that nation becomes an enlightened people that dispenses with their chains of superstition and mythology. There is an upward march in the way of progress and the people become moralized, but to introduce intolerance in legislation is a retreat from the civilizing experience and the reversal of gains made under enlightenment.



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