

Death of Free Speech

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For Discussion: From Censorship To Criminalizing Dissent (zerohedge.com, 2/17/2024)

From Censorship To Criminalizing Dissent

A major battle is brewing throughout the Western world over the basic principle of free speech. Is it going to be protected by law? It's not entirely clear what the outcome will be. We seem to be on the precipice of a potential calamity if the courts don't decide the right way. Even if we squeak out a victory, the question is already in play. Our free speech rights have never been more fragile.

<https://www.zerohedge.com/geopolitical/censorship-criminalizing-dissent>

UK's "Online Safety Act" OFFICIALLY grants MSM permission to publish lies

Welcome to the UK where it's now official government policy that you CAN'T publish "misinformation," but The Guardian, the BBC, Disney and Netflix CAN.

<https://off-guardian.org/2024/02/02/uks-online-safety-act-officially-grants-msm-permission-to-publish-lies/>

Biden Targeting Military Veterans, Older Americans, Rural Communities And Those That Hold The Bible And Constitution Sacred

When the Biden regime's "Ministry of Truth" was scrapped after public backlash, it is doubtful that anyone with a brain thought they were done trying to control what information the American public is allowed to see and discuss online. Those with a working brain were right; the Biden regime not only didn't stop trying, they simply decided to do it differently by using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to target information that is not the "official narrative" from being discussed on social media or other platforms where Americans discuss issues.

https://allnewspipeline.com/Biden_Funded_AI_Censorship_Tool.php

Ursula von der Leyen hopes EU Digital Services Act will tackle WEF's top concern: The truth getting out

For the global business community, the top concern for the next two years is not conflict or climate, it is disinformation and misinformation, Ursula von der Leyen said.

<https://expose-news.com/2024/01/17/digital-services-act-will-tackle-wefs-top-concern/>

<https://www.zerohedge.com/geopolitical/watch-eu-president-demands-globalist-control-over-all-information>

A new law is about to kill free speech and democracy in Australia

The Australian Government has recently introduced in Parliament a new law proposal to ban officially unapproved online content. Digital companies are expected to adopt a code of conduct which will see them censor speech based on broad, vague and far-reaching directives.

<https://www.rt.com/news/586569-free-speech-democracy-australia/>

Is freedom of speech a biblical concept?

Freedom of speech is guaranteed by the 1st and 14th amendments to the U.S. Constitution and similar provisions of some state constitutions.

- Thus, freedom of speech is not so much a biblical concept but a political one.

The founders of the United States believed that mankind has certain "inalienable rights" including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

- Under that umbrella of liberty falls freedom of speech.
- Thomas Jefferson spoke of these rights as having been endowed to man by his Creator.

How has the Creator endowed people with the right to liberty?

Adam and Eve had the liberty to partake of any fruit in the garden (except one), and they even had the liberty to disobey.

- Christians believe that serving God and having a relationship with Him is the ultimate liberty. The ultimate freedom is found in belonging to Christ... Galatians 5:1 – *Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.*

Sin brings bondage (Romans 7:14), but the one who belongs to Christ is spiritually free...

Romans 8:2 – *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death*

Does our spiritual freedom from sin entail political freedom of speech?

Perhaps not directly, but speaking the truth in love is a biblical mandate (Ephesians 4:15). Therefore, any government law that guarantees citizens the right to speak the truth aligns with godly principles.

- By the same token, any law that suppresses a person's right to speak truth is working against God's command.

Freedom of speech does not guarantee that truth is told, of course, but it does permit it to be told.

- There is no conflict between biblical principles and the civic principle of freedom of speech.

Can you think of any biblical examples where God's people were denied freedom of speech?

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, whose refusal to bow down to the king's idol landed them in the midst of a fiery furnace (Daniel 3:1–26).

How do we know that free speech is under attack?

- Censorship of voices questioning the official narratives of climate change, January 6th, fair elections, vaccines, etc.
- Debanking – Canceling the bank accounts of those who speak truth to power (true journalists)... also dissenters (truckers in Canada)
- Shadow banning truth tellers on social media
- Economically destroying & imprisoning political opposition (calling them a threat to democracy)
- Hate speech laws making things like misgendering someone illegal

How is the loss of free speech a sign of the times?

Matthew 24:11 – *many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.*

Deception will be rampant. Deception is not as effective when there is a free marketplace of ideas. For deception to be pervasive, the free marketplace of ideas must be shut down.

Luke 12:2 – *For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known.*

Truth has a way of winning out over lies when allowed to freely compete. For lies to be advanced, it is necessary to suppress the truth.

- The trend toward totalitarianism will continue because the Bible says the world economy during the Tribulation will be under the Antichrist's total control.

How is the loss of free speech the spirit of the Antichrist?

Daniel 7:23 – *The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces.*

The government of the Antichrist will be totalitarian. Everyone on earth will be enslaved to the government of the Antichrist.

- Totalitarian governments cannot tolerate any narrative that contradicts their authority over people so free speech must be shut down.
- Silencing voices of opposition is what totalitarian dictators do and is a powerful oppressive tactic in the spirit of the Antichrist.

How will the fourth beast be different from the previous beasts?

It will be truly world-wide. The other beasts were Gentile powers that ruled over Jerusalem but were limited in their authority on other places on earth.

- Like a lion, wings plucked off, like a man – Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar
- Like a bear, raised up on one side, with three ribs in its mouth: The three ribs represent three kingdoms: Persia, Media, and Babylon – Persia dominant
- Like a leopard with wings rapid conquest by Alexander the Great, 4 heads the generals that replaced him – Greece
- 4th beast – Rome, would morph into European city-states, colonial powers and eventually the government of the Antichrist (revived roman empire)

Besides clamping down on free speech, how will the Antichrist control people?

Revelation 13:16-17 – *He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*

Economically... you will not be able to participate in the economy unless you are approved by the government of the Antichrist. As during Covid...

- You cannot go to the store if you don't show allegiance to the governmental authorities by wearing a mask.
- You cannot keep your job unless you take the vaccine. The Internet, Artificial Intelligence, and CBDCs provide the infrastructure for totalitarian control of the economy.

Why do totalitarians hate free speech so much?

They are trying to replace God in their hunger for power and their control over people.

- God's enemies hide the truth so people have no choice but to go along with their evil plans.

That is why they hate freedom...

John 8:32 – You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free

How should we respond to the erosion of our free speech rights?

God wants us to obey Him and to speak according to His Word. If obedience to that principle makes people hate us or gets us thrown in jail or even killed, we are not to back down. God wants us to speak the truth boldly...

Ephesians 6:20 – for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

But God never promises that we will always be free to speak without consequences.

- Recognize and help others see that the loss of free speech is a sign of the times

What applications do we see from this discussion?

- Freedom of speech is a biblical concept but not necessarily a civil one (it was a one time in the USA).
- The loss of the freedom of speech is necessary to set the stage for the Antichrist and thus is a sign of the times.
- We should not back down from speaking the truth even with the loss of free speech!