

# NO SILENCING OF CHRISTIANITY

*Christians, Rise Up for Our Freedom...*



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## **A Call to Vigilance: Christians, Rise Up for Our Freedom...**

*“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” - 1 Peter 5:8...*

*“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free... Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” — Galatians 5:1*

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ from the Cape to Limpopo, from cities and the townships to the rural towns, hear this word... God has entrusted us with freedom of conscience, freedom of worship, freedom to proclaim the Gospel... These are not small blessings - they are precious gifts written into our Constitution and purchased by the blood of God... Now, as the apostle Paul warned the Galatians, there is a real danger of sliding back into bondage (Gal 5:1)... The door is opening to change - not in the light of freedom, but under the shadow of regulation, oversight, licensing... It is our duty to “test everything; hold fast what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21), to discern what is happening and to stand firm...

### **I. What Is Happening: Understanding the Moment...**

*“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.” - Hosea 4:6...*

We cannot fight what we do not understand... We must “be wise as serpents and innocent as doves” (Matthew 10:16)...

The **CRL Rights Commission** (Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities) was created as a constitutional body to protect the rights of communities... On paper, its mandate sounds benign - even beneficial... But in recent years, particularly after its 2017 report and again more recently, it has advanced proposals that would place churches and ministries under licensing schemes, peer-review councils and state oversight...

These proposals are justified on the grounds of widespread abuses in the religious sector: commercialisation of religion, exploitative belief systems, fraudulent or harmful practices by rogue leaders... We agree: “Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the Lord (Jeremiah 23:1)... There has indeed been grievous harm... But the proposed remedy is not limited accountability under the rule of law; it is structural control that would give a state-recognised body power to decide who may preach, which organisations are legitimate, what is acceptable doctrine or practice...

Freedom of Religion South Africa (FOR SA) and many church bodies have warned that while abuses must be addressed, these proposals risk state overreach... They echo the warning of the apostles before the Sanhedrin: “We must obey God rather than human beings!” (Acts 5:29)...

### **II. Why It Is Dangerous: Counting the Cost...**

*“If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?” - Psalm 11:3...*

Let us go deeper.... What are the consequences if these ideas become law?...

#### **1. Erosion of religious freedom...**

The ability to worship freely, to assemble, to preach - even when unpopular - is foundational to Christianity... “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom” (2 Corinthians 3:17)... Licensing or peer-review committees deciding for us what counts as valid expression means freedom will be circumscribed... True faith requires risk, dissent and prophetic courage...

#### **2. Doctrinal compromise...**

Who determines doctrine?... “All Scripture is God-breathed” (2 Timothy 3:16) - not state-breathed... If state-appointed committees evaluate acceptable belief, anything counter-cultural may be marginalised or suppressed... The Gospel is, by its nature, a “stumbling block” (1 Corinthians 1:23)... Binding churches into conformity can silence prophetic voices...

### 3. Slippery slope to state capture of religion...

Once the principle is accepted that religious bodies must be registered and monitored, the state gains leverage... History testifies - whether in Rome, communist regimes, or authoritarian states - how quickly regulation becomes persecution... Jesus warned, "If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also" (John 15:20)...

### 4. Undermining the priesthood of all believers...

"See what love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God" (1 John 3:1)... Every believer has direct access to God, every believer can minister... The idea that the state must decide who is legitimate undermines this theology, turning calling into a government-certified profession...

### 5. Reduction of the Gospel to legality...

True religion is "pure and undefiled before God" (James 1:27)... If the focus shifts to compliance, paperwork, and permits, the church becomes a regulatory body instead of a spiritual body... Christianity becomes legalism and bureaucratism instead of discipleship...

### 6. Vulnerability of the vulnerable...

Yes, abuses must be stopped... But heavy regulation often drives ministry underground, into unregistered or illegal spaces... Those who most need shepherding - the poor, the rural, the new converts - become even more vulnerable... Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for "tying up heavy burdens" on others (Matthew 23:4)... We must not allow the state to do the same...

## III. Answering the Counterarguments...

*"The first to plead his case seems right, until another comes and examines him."* - Proverbs 18:17...

We must be fair, but also discerning...

**Claim:** There is abuse and exploitation; we need oversight...

**Response:** Yes... But we already have laws against fraud, sexual abuse, assault, financial crimes, exploitation... Romans 13 affirms the state's role to punish wrongdoing - but not to define theology... What is needed is enforcement of existing laws, education and stronger internal accountability, not a new system of control...

**Claim:** Churches operate as businesses; the state must intervene...

**Response:** Even if some behave like businesses, many do not... A blanket regulation punishes the many for the faults of some... Paul dealt with disorder in Corinth through internal discipline (1 Corinthians 5), not by handing the church over to Caesar...

**Claim:** Licensing and peer review ensure integrity...

**Response:** On paper yes - but in practice, licensing has been used to penalise minorities or dissenters... "Do not show favouritism" (James 2:1), yet systems of licensing almost always entrench the dominant power structure...

## IV. What Christians Must Do: A Call to Action...

*"Who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"* - Esther 4:14...

Because we believe in God, because freedom of worship is non-negotiable, here is what we must do - not to rage, but to act with wisdom, courage and faith...

### 1. Know your rights, know the Constitution...

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom" (Proverbs 4:7)... Study the Bill of Rights - especially section 15 (freedom of religion, belief and opinion), section 31 (cultural, religious, linguistic community rights), section 36 (limitation of rights)... Recognise what the courts have said about freedom of religion... Knowledge is armour (Ephesians 6:11)...

## **2. Mobilise church unity...**

“There is one body and one Spirit” (Ephesians 4:4)... This is no time for division, we must speak with one voice... Major church bodies - evangelical, pentecostal, mainline - must come together, consult each other, issue joint stances... Let leaders be bold; let congregations be informed...

## **3. Engage in public debate...**

Jesus told His followers, “You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14)... Light must shine in the public square... Write letters, speak in media, send deputations to Parliament, engage with the CRL in its public hearings... Prepare solid submissions... Expose where proposals violate constitutional freedoms... Propose alternatives...

## **4. Propose better alternatives...**

We must not only say “no” and we must model integrity... “Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21)... Self-regulation, codes of ethics, voluntary registration, denominational accountability, theological training - these are ways to protect people without surrendering freedom...

## **5. Legal readiness...**

“Provide things honest in the sight of all men” (Romans 12:17)... Monitor proposed bills and support religious freedom organisations in legal challenges... Seek judicial review where necessary... Like Paul, use your rights as a citizen (Acts 22:25)...

## **6. Prayer and spiritual vigilance...**

“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation” (Matthew 26:41)... Underneath this lies spiritual warfare... Pray for wisdom, unity, boldness... Pray that pastors and believers will have clarity... Pray that laws will be just and preserve freedom...

## **V. Encouragement and Warning: The Prophetic Edge...**

*“When a trumpet sounds in a city, do not the people tremble?” - Amos 3:6...*

Dear Church, Christians - the Lord has not called us to be timid - He has called us to be salt and light... In seasons of darkness, salt preserves, light guides... “If the salt loses its saltiness... it is no longer good for anything” (Matthew 5:13)... Our freedoms are precious but fragile... If we do not guard them now, tomorrow we might wake to find that we’ve traded liberty for security, open worship for permits, faithful witness for conformity...

We must not sleep, we must “strengthen what remains and is about to die” (Revelation 3:2)... Engage with courage and love... Stand for Christ, stand for the Bible, stand for the freedom to worship, to preach, to lead, to serve - all according to the Word of God and our conscience, never at the whim of government regulation...

Let us remember the early church... They met in homes, caves and catacombs, under threat of Rome... Yet “the word of God continued to spread and flourish” (Acts 12:24)... Freedom is precious, but the Gospel does not depend on it... Even so, when we have freedom, we must steward it, defend it and hand it to our children...

### **a Personal Charge: Stand Firm in Christ...**

Fellow Christians, as I bring these words to a close... I speak to you not merely as one observing the tides of change in our nation, but as a fellow servant of Christ... Burdened for the Church and the Gospel of our Lord... The hour is urgent and the winds of influence are strong... The pressures upon the freedom of the Church are real, yet we do not face this moment as those without hope...

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11)...* We may see uncertainty and challenge, but God’s providence endures beyond every human scheme...

It is in these times that we must cultivate courage rooted in faith... *“Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go”* (Joshua 1:9)... Courage does not come from fearlessness; it comes from recognition that God is sovereign, that His promises are true and that His people are called to act in obedience to Him... We are called to shine in darkness, to preserve the truth in the midst of shifting cultural currents...

*“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden”* (Matthew 5:14)... Our witness, individually and collectively, matters more than ever...

We are not strangers to trials, because history shows us that the Church has always flourished under pressure... The apostles were imprisoned, beaten and threatened... Yet *“the word of God continued to increase and prevail mightily”* (Acts 19:20)... Likewise, countless believers have persevered through hostile regimes, persecution and societal opposition... This same Spirit, who sustained them, dwells in us today...

*“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God”* (Romans 8:16)... It is this Spirit who strengthens, guides and equips us for the challenges before us...

Let us not underestimate the power of prayer... Prayer is not a passive hope but an active engagement with the sovereign King of the universe... *“Pray without ceasing”* (1 Thessalonians 5:17)... Let our hearts rise daily in intercession for our leaders, our congregations and the broader society... Pray that wisdom will prevail where decisions are made, that integrity will guard our communities and that the freedom of Christ’s Church will be preserved... Prayer aligns our will with God’s and fortifies our courage to act rightly...

Yet courage without humility is dangerous... We are called to stand firm, but always in love... *“Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might”* (Ephesians 6:10)... Strength must be anchored in God, not in our own cleverness or influence... The enemy seeks division, pride and fear... Let us resist him by walking in unity, speaking truth with gentleness and embodying the character of Christ in every engagement...

*“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves”* (Philippians 2:3)... In humility, we find strength; in submission to God, we find power that no earthly system can overcome...

Do not forget the stakes - We are not merely protecting institutional structures; we are safeguarding the Gospel itself... The freedom to worship, to minister and to disciple is inseparable from the work of God’s kingdom... Every soul reached, every life transformed, every act of mercy is threatened if fear, indifference or passivity prevails...

*“Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up”* (Galatians 6:9)... Our vigilance and courage today determine the soil in which future generations will either thrive or struggle...

In addition, the call to discernment cannot be overstated... The pressures on our society, though disguised as protection or reform, may conceal intentions that erode spiritual authority and liberty... *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God”* (1 John 4:1)... To act wisely is to observe, to pray, to seek counsel and to align ourselves with truth rather than rhetoric...

Let us not be swayed by fear, flattery or convenience... Our allegiance must remain first to Christ and His Word, for He is the unshakable foundation... *“The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer”* (Psalm 18:2)...

Christians, I urge you to remember that influence is most powerful when exercised with integrity... Speak truth in love, yet never shrink from boldness when required... *“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute”* (Proverbs 31:8)...

Our voices, our prayers, our actions and our witness collectively shape the spiritual climate of our nation... To remain silent is to yield ground that God has entrusted to His people...

As we close, let us lift our eyes beyond the immediate challenges... The God who reigns over South Africa is the same God who reigns over all creation... *“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof”* (Psalm 24:1)... No human law, no bureaucratic process, no scheme of man can nullify His sovereignty... We fight, not merely for liberty, but for fidelity to the eternal purposes of God...

*“So we do not lose heart... Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day”* (2 Corinthians 4:16)... Let this renewal of the inner self empower every believer to act courageously and prayerfully in this moment...

Finally, I call on each of you to embrace personal responsibility... The preservation of faith, liberty and witness rests not only in institutions but in the hearts of God’s people... Live with awareness, engage with discernment, pray without ceasing and love without compromise... *“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful”* (Hebrews 10:23). In doing so, we honour God, protect His Church and leave a legacy of courage and faithfulness for the generations to follow...

May the Lord grant us wisdom, courage, unity and steadfastness... May our hearts burn with love for Christ and for His Church... May we rise as salt and light in our communities, unafraid, unwavering and full of faith... May the Spirit of God guide our every step, sustain our every action and fill our lives with the power that comes from above...

*“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”* (Ephesians 3:20–21)...

*Please everyone that receive and read this... Does not matter if you agree or not with what I have written here, please do not keep it for yourself... Spread it everywhere, let more people see and read, what is going on in South Africa...*

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