

Freedom of Religion

for Prime Minister's *Expert Panel*, first of 4 parts

TRUE RELIGIONS all **worship**, or at least acknowledge, a Supreme Being called **God**.

In the broad sense, religion is a **belief system** which offers answers to ultimate questions such as the origin of things and of man, the meaning of life on earth, how to conduct oneself, and man's destiny after death.

In an even broader sense, atheism is almost a religion, an **anti-religion religion**, since it often functions like one. Nowadays, atheism often asserts an ever aggressive body of thought and fervently strives to stamp out all ordinary religions such as Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

THESIS 1: Freedom of Religion in one of four freedoms which stand or fall together: These four freedoms involve **freedoms from** external coercion or repression, and **freedoms for** action:-

- Freedom of Thought,
- Freedom of Speech,
- Freedom to Publish one's thoughts.

Freedom to Act according to one's beliefs: to act not on whim but as one ought.

Any religion seeking to negate the freedom of another religion to function is usually acting contrary to natural morality. As a last resort, a government may restrict it as far as is necessary.

THESIS 2: Religion is foundational to a culture and a civilization:-

- A civilization emerges from and depends on a culture,
- and a culture emerges from and depends on a Religion.

THESIS 3: Whatever is received (or heard) is received (or heard) according to the mindset of the recipient, and whatever is uttered is uttered according to the mindset of the utterer.

THE GOD-QUESTION

NOT ONLY politicians and their committees, indeed all citizens, cannot avoid the God-question.

Whether God exists or does not exist makes all the difference in one's Declaration of Interests.

It is a vital aspect of one's mindset:-

MIND-SET or “World-View”

To what extent is my judgement on Freedom of Religion decided by my mindset?

Is the truth and value of my judgement enhanced or retarded by it?

Where do human rights come from?

What sorts of rights can civil law confer? What can cancel, negate or limit them?

Are there limitations on governments, or are they totalitarian?

If they are not omnipotent, what are their limitations?

Is “*enjoyment*” of freedom of religion simply some sort of privilege conferred by government?

Where do governments get authority?

What rights have citizens or countries if they negate human rights?

Are human rights complementary to and correlative with human duties?

Will conscientious objection to taking part in the immorality of others be disallowed?

Is modern atheism a substitute religion which insists on and enforces Godlessness?

Is the rise of modern atheism already forcing Godlessness on our country by legislation?

Where do our present Federal Constitution and our State criminal codes come from?

Will the Bible be banned for its utter condemnation of adultery and sodomy as sins?

Will catechisms and other religious books be banned as “hate speech”?

Will schools violate parental rights to bring up children in their own religion and morals?

Will peaceful protests against the slaughter of the innocents by abortion be criminalized?

Are the new laws making same-sex unions into “marriages” intended to exterminate matrimony?

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Australian laws and Federal Constitution originate in the Bible's Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21, revealed by God to Moses, 13th century B.C..

1. God: **pre-ambule to Constitution and use of the Lord's Prayer in Parliament.**

2. His Name not taken in vain: **hence swearing into office and oaths in court in God's Name.**

3. Keep holy the seventh day: **workers' rights to a weekly day-off for rest and worship.**

4. Honour father and mother: **upholding of marriage and family life — until recently!**

5. Duty to defend human life from murder — **now weakened by abortion and euthanasia.**

6. Duty to defend marriage from adultery — **now abandoned.**

7. Duty to defend property from theft — **more or less upheld.**

8. Prohibition on false witness — **more or less upheld.**

9. Duty to avoid lustful thoughts — **now little protection from pornography.**

10. Duty to avoid covetous thoughts — never could be law, but socially desirable.

The Code of Hammurabi from Babylon, 18th century B.C., has six of the Ten Commandments. It is a pagan testimony to natural morality (natural moral law), though in a motley mix with civil edicts and laced with penalties so draconian as to make Leviticus read like a toddler's tale.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

by politicians etc

POLITICIANS and their committees must divulge their existing interests when legislating on matters in which they are financially involved or in matters in which they have already made judgements.

Hence I state my own interests: my letterhead is a manifesto, as are my publications as listed.

Editorial explanation for this Handouts:

My submission was on the letterhead of my retirement apostolate, *Cardinal Newman Catechist Consultants*. It says:
+ An apostolate, free service, not a business, no sales, no cheques
+ Specialists in Family Catechetics
+ Consultants on Catholic Homeschooling
+ Originally Cardinal Newman Catechist Centre, 1974-2000
+ Patron — Blessed John Henry Newman, 1801-1890
+ *Cor ad cor loquitur* — "Heart Speaks to Heart".

PUBLISHED WORKS

Catholic Family Catechism Apostles' Edition II (500 Q&As), also *Disciples' Edition II* (only 50 Q&As);
Confirmation Kit for Home Preparation;
Heart Speaks to Heart prayer book;
Apostles of Christ in High Schools duplicated Teacher's Books;
For other publications: Cardinal Newman Faith Resources Inc. 02 9673 2235 and see <www.cardinalnewman.com.au> for regular *Handouts* (single A4 sheets).

Bush Boys and Cuthbert (2 in 1); *Bush Boys and Bush Rangers*;
Bush Boys on the Move; *New Boys in the Bush*;
Squiggles and Squinter; *New Boys Go Bush Again*

Thus the mindset factor of those assessing this will govern how they receive it. Some might routinely stereotype me from my ideas by a sort of knee-jerk reaction and **DISCARD** it into a mental pigeon hole; i.e. anything said by a Christian, let alone a Catholic, more so a Catholic priest. There is also a possible stimulus-response rejection of any use of religious concepts like "the Ten Commandments".

Father James Tierney

The above is part of the p. 1 covering letter of my submission to the Expert Panel on 6th February, 2018; then it omits p. 2 Table of Contents and resumes in the first of four parts of pp. 3-10. The short lines in two columns make it more compact.

THOUGHTS ARISING

HEREWITH are ideas for the ongoing conflict — for we are not yet at the height of the storm.

There will be debates in Parliament, but the fiercest fights will be in the Law Courts and with the inquisition-like Anti-Discrimination Tribunals.

We need to be fighting-fit in soul and body:-

- Sanctifying grace and fidelity to the Christian Covenant in **sacramental worship** and personal prayer.
- Healthy food, exercise, sleep and peace at home.
- Study the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*:-

CCC 2108: The right to religious liberty is neither a moral license to adhere to error, nor a supposed right to error, but rather a **natural right of the human person to civil liberty**, i.e., immunity, within just limits, from external constraint in religious matters by political authorities. This natural right ought to

be acknowledged in the juridical order of society in such a way that it constitutes a civil right.

CCC n. 2109: The right to religious liberty can of itself be neither unlimited nor limited only by a "public order" conceived in a positivist or naturalist manner. The "due limits" which are inherent in it must be determined for each social situation by political prudence, according to the requirements of the common good, and ratified by the civil authority in accordance with "legal principles which are in conformity with the objective moral order".

See Social duty of religion and right to religious freedom CCC nn. 2104-2109

OUTDO and OUTBREED

WE must **outdo** in simple goodness, in the human and Divine virtues our weaker brethren inside the Church and our fellow citizens outside the Church.

And we must **outbreed** them.

It means bigger families, if possible.

We can do it. We can outbreed them in quantity and outdo them in quality! This is not for our own glory but that God may be glorified in us.

We must prepare children to be counter-cultural in their life in society; for the lay apostolate in such a pagan society; and for persecution for Christ (cf. John 15:20); and thereby help get them to complete their testing time on earth to be saints in Heaven.

OBSTACLES

Human Respect:

'Human respect' here means moral cowardice. It is not that other sort of respect for human beings as fellow children of God in their creatureliness, for this is a virtue, a part of charity. Rather, the vice of human respect is a human weakness, a sin of respecting the errors and amorality and immorality of others.

Mobile phones and Internet

Beware of the internet and the mobile phone and its subsequent developments. Brilliant technology is being exploited by the Devil's hatred of God and man.

The Declaration of Interest

After the 2014 enquiry by the Upper House of the NSW Parliament into Homeschooling, it occurred to me that some members of their Select Committee had missed out on a happy home upbringing by loving parents and the blessing of many siblings. They seemed to lack the background to grasp that homeschooling was a richer form of an upbringing.

Likewise religious freedom is incomprehensible to men who don't pray to God and whose consciences are unformed in moral principles, yet are in positions of power over us.

For all such persons we must "be the salt of the earth and let our light shine before men," (Matthew 5:13-14).

ESSENTIAL ACTION and proposing an IDEAL

Family Catechetics counters confused doctrine & morals in pulpits, schools & seminaries, cause or occasion of the crisis in marriage, priesthood, Religious life, paucity of vocations.

Home tutoring in Christian doctrine (with apologetics later) truly fosters faith and piety — alas! many Catholic schools fail to graduate practising Catholics even after 13 years schooling.

Father James Tierney