



Freedom of Speech

By Lucy Wall

It seems to me that in life, everyone is entitled to their opinion. Everyone except the Christian that is. I've experienced it personally in my own places of work and also witnessed it in general life and different situations.

The enemy's attack on God's people certainly seems to be building in intensity and it's becoming harder and harder to be a Christian in this world. Now I know Christians have been persecuted all throughout history and countless people have been martyred for their Christian beliefs, but the angle on which I'm coming from here is that of a Christian living in Britain in the year 2013.

This formerly "Christian Nation" is now becoming so adamant and hateful in its fight against God and the belief in His very existence, that people are now being mocked, pilloried, humiliated and shamed into silence just for standing on basic Biblical truths and wanting to apply these to their lives.

For example, early signs can be seen that parents are no longer allowed to teach their children about Biblical truths and raise them with Biblical principles. Or, I've watched as MPs stand up in parliament and voice a differing opinion to the common view and one that dares to be founded in Biblical principle only for that person to then be denounced as a "bigot." The next day they're being forced to publicly back track on their words or face losing their job. If we are no longer allowed to have freedom of thought or freedom of speech, then we are no longer living in a democracy and are dwelling under a dictatorship.

I once heard Pastor Mike McIntosh say that if the system is persecuting or putting a person in jail for the views that person holds as a Bible believing Christian, then the system has gone too far. No one has the right to try and control another person's mind.

Now I know that many people may argue and say that over the years, "Christianity" has often been like a dictatorship and tried to control people but that is not Jesus and not true Christianity. To know Jesus is to know God and to know Him personally and have a relationship with Him is totally different to being under the dictation of a "man-made religion." When we know Him as our Saviour, we experience first hand how He is loving, caring, forgiving and kind and that He has graciously given us all the option as to whether we choose Him or not. He will never force us to love Him and so has given us all the gift of free-will. Any example that suggests otherwise is not true Christianity and is a tragic misrepresentation of Christ by sinful mankind.

So the point of my poem is not to start an argument or to come across as belligerent or angry, it's simply to make the point that as a human being who has made an educated and informed decision, I have accepted that Jesus Christ died to pay for my sins and is my personal Saviour. I don't demand that everyone else agrees one hundred percent with everything about my life or else must be labelled with all sorts of ugly names, I simply ask for the freedom to live my life as a Christian and be allowed to form my own opinions based on what God's Word reveals. All I am asking for is equality and freedom of speech.

Don't tell me I can't worship Jesus.
Don't tell me I can't speak His name.
I'm not asking you to keep quiet.
I'd be grateful if you'd do the same.

Don't curse me for having convictions
That differ to those in your heart.
Just because I follow Jesus,
Doesn't mean you can tear me apart.



Although our opinions may differ,
And our views show a noted division;
This does not permit scornful actions,
Where beliefs are then met with derision.

You say we must all have our freedom.
To ourselves we must "Always be true!"
If I'm pilloried for my opinions,
Does that sound like freedom to you?

You demonstrate views that are hostile
To the God and the faith I belong.
But though you may find it offensive,
Doesn't mean to say that it's wrong.

You say you want love and compassion
To rule and to reign in this life.
Yet you contradict this with your actions,
Showing hatred and stirring up strife.

Your anger is quickly awakened,
When learning our views don't reflect.
If I just nod along like a robot,
Would you really give me your respect?

If I didn't hold fast my convictions,
And was silenced to speak not His name,
Would I then earn your favour and kindness?
Do you only respect those the same?

Because I don't share your opinions,
Then "tolerance" is what I must lack.
When shouting me down for opposing,
Are you showing tolerance back?

You call me a dumb ignoramus.
To your "wisdom" you think I should bow.
When I don't, then you call me a bigot.
So who's being ignorant now?



When you throw at me insults and curses,
With damaging words that can slice,
If you hate me because I'm a Christian,
Then you must have a phobia of Christ!

Now this doesn't make me dislike you.
It just means that our views disagree.
But I show you respect and compassion.
So I ask, please don't disrespect me.

You voice your opinions quite clearly.
It's "your right" to your freedom of speech.
But I must be shamed into silence,
So you rob me my freedom of speech.

You tell me my thoughts are old fashioned,
And to "move with the times" would be clever.
But God does not change with man's thinking,
And the truth of the Lord stands forever.

Your views disagree with the Church's,
So you say it should change "to be fair."
But if you don't believe God's existence,
Then why do you protest or care?

If God isn't real then why bother?
Just to claim every path has been trod?
But why then acknowledge the building,
When you won't be acknowledging God?

To me this is simply dogmatic.
Your hypocrisy, I can't perceive:
Insisting that sin be accepted,
By the God in Whom you don't believe.

Now God wishes no-one should perish,
In our places He suffered great loss.
Now we're all welcomed in to His presence;
But we must leave our sins at the Cross.



But you tell me that God has no placement
And His wisdom applies not to you.
You may not accept His existence,
But don't disrespect those who do.

So don't tell me I can't read the Bible,
Try to force me to share in your views.
For I will stay true to my Saviour,
No matter what's said on the news.

Though Governments say to "move forward,"
And even if man gives the nod;
The system might say it's accepted,
But it won't be accepted by God.

For He is above our opinions.
He won't bow to the secular view.
We can see from the Bible and history,
That man's wicked ways are not new.

We may try to remove every mention
Of His name and each heaven-bound nod.
His acknowledgment might be abolished.
But this will not eradicate God!

His Church does not change at man's calling.
To think that it should is absurd.
It does not require "updating,"
For it's built on the truth of God's Word.

I'll stand on this truth for my lifetime.
No matter if you disagree.
You say you've endured persecution,
But oh how you persecute me.

You shout in my face for my tolerance.
But it's perfectly clear you want more.
You also demand my endorsement
And to leave my beliefs on the floor.



But I humble myself before Jesus
And I listen each day for His voice.
I don't make demands you do likewise.
I respectfully honour your choice.

God never will force us to choose Him.
It's the free-will He gave to mankind.
So we all have the right to decipher.
And the right to control our own mind.

Though my faith means I'm labelled as "stupid,"
I am blessed with a brain; which I use.
So don't tell me I can't be a Christian
And deny me my freedom to choose.

For my faith isn't "lack of intelligence."
And although our opinions don't link,
In Christ, I take every thought captive,
So do not tell me what to think.

Understand I don't judge your decisions.
Your beliefs are completely your choice.
I ask you accept mine are different.
And like you, have a freedom to voice.

So for me, come hell or high water,
Come insults as sharp as a sword,
I'll always bow down to my Saviour.
And I'll always declare "Christ is Lord!"

Isaiah 40:8

"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever."