

Freedom of speech is enshrined in the law of many countries, but with some limitations such as libel and slander, incitement to hate, incitement to violence, incitement to discrimination by gender, race, or ethnicity. Incitement, hate, prejudice, and casual opinion are regarded as different or even opposite to rational analysis, reason, research, understanding and preferring complexity over simplification.

RELIGION.

Religious officials, disciples, devotees, and believers can and sometimes do....

Deny freedom of speech to others in the name of their religion because.....,It is God's word and truth and may not be questioned, criticised, analysed or denied "

This is more likely.....

A) in countries where there is only one religion allowed in law e.g. Saudi Arabia.

B) in spaces where one religion prevails. e.g. Cathedrals, Mosques, Synagogues, Temples etc.

C) in countries where strong or dictatorial government is in alliance with one religion. e.g. Spain under Franco, Turkey nowadays, Russia under Putin perhaps.

D) in family settings where the family are believers.

E) in faith schools

ALSO. There is often a prevailing respect or courtesy or fear of offending, which may cause many non-believers to forgo discussion or questioning of faith in the presence of believers, giving self imposed limitations on freedom of speech.

(this also applies to non-religious but strong views of others... e.g. Brexit.

We should also ask why this is so and we can answer that.....

The major religions are a collection of rules and values and in societies where everyone follows the same values then there will be more orderliness, more agreement on right and wrong, easier definitions of crimes and punishment.

Also when you meet strangers you can make valid assumptions about their behaviour and that others will behave in a similar way to yourself.

And when there is one religion supporting and supported by the state, enforcement of behaviour is more legitimate, reinforcing the power of the state, government, dictator etc. And there will be less opposition.

The pursuit and achievement of social control is a common interest of both religion and government.

Where there are multiple religions and sects, enforcement is harder and there will be a greater demand and NEED for a secular definition of what is acceptable. This is of course Freedom of Speech.

This will allow unrestricted scientific research and will unleash more variety and complexity AND will honour differences over conformity.

The associated cost to society is less orderliness, more difficulty in understanding friends, neighbours and strangers, harder work for government, rulers, police and lawyers in enforcing acceptable behaviour.....

And more freedom for us all in a world of greater differences, more contradictions, more confrontations with what we believe in.....

And more fragmentation and less unity in society, communities and families.

And another point. Most believers do not believe everything in their religion. They omit or disregard the horrible bits and help things go well at work, in their neighbourhood and when traveling and meeting strangers. Perhaps the true enemy of freedom is extremism!