

**Religious liberty in the Church's teaching and life**

What was the example of Jesus and the Apostles as concerns religious liberty?

Without denying the facts of history, how can we defend the Church's teaching on religious liberty to non-Catholics? What are the common preconceptions about the Catholic Church and religious liberty?

Until the advent of the modern pluralistic state, most everyone agreed that the cohesiveness of a society depended in large measure on the religious uniformity of the people. It was understood that if the people of a land were divided in their religious beliefs, then they would be divided as a society. What serves to hold our contemporary society together?

The Church both teaches that there is one true religion which subsists in the Catholic Church and that people must be free from coercion in their search for religious truth.

But if we believe that there is one true religion which subsists in the Catholic Church, why do we also believe that it is inappropriate to use coercion to bring people into the Church? Would it not be better if everyone was Catholic (even if it took some coercing to get them to become Catholic)?

What is our role as Catholics in all of this? How are we to defend religious liberty in our country? How do we best exercise religious liberty?

What is the difference between the expressions "freedom of religion" and "freedom of worship"?

What does it look like to spread the Gospel without coercion?

**Christian Freedom**

What is freedom, according to the Catholic faith? How is freedom typically defined in our contemporary society? How do we explain the Church's teaching on freedom to non-Catholics?

What does it mean to say that Christ has set us free? How does sin enslave a person?

How does a Christian avoid feeling like a slave in the midst of all the demands of modern life?