

## **Focus on Religious Freedom**

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## **Ashamed of the Gospel?**

At the 2014 National Catholic Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C., Prof. Robert P. George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and Director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University, stated that, in America, the days of acceptable Christianity and comfortable Catholicism are over. Prof. George began by asking the attendees if they were ashamed of the Gospel.

Prof. George explained that in America the days of being a comfortable Christian or an acceptable Catholic have been ruthlessly ended by the changes in our culture. He was reflecting on how our 1<sup>st</sup> amendment religious freedom has been reshaped to a shadow of its intent and no longer protects an outward support of conscientiously held beliefs about matters such as traditional marriage, gender classification, sexual morality and the sacredness of life at all stages.

Though these Gospel truths are clearly taught and upheld by the Catholic church they are no longer politically correct in our general culture and bring censure and condemnation of those who will state those beliefs...those who are not ashamed to speak and espouse the teachings of the Bible. Christians and Catholics are told they must adhere to the cultural redefinition of good and evil...or else!

Biblical and natural law beliefs about morality were once a pillar of our culture, but are now the cause of derision, labeling, discrimination and even outright persecution.

- Pro-life advocates outside abortion clinics have been arrested and even imprisoned.
- Bakers, florists and photographers have lost their businesses over lawsuits denying their conscience rights to refuse creatively messaging against their faith.
- The owners of Hobby Lobby and the Little Sisters of the Poor had no choice but to appeal to the Supreme Court to exempt them from providing abortion inducing drugs, contraception and sterilization through their healthcare plans.
- Traditional Latin Mass attendees, their choir directors and pastors were labeled by the FBI as potential terrorists and subjected to defamation and government spying.
- Surgeons have been fired for refusing to do gender affecting surgeries.
- Too many Catholics will not speak the truth about the church's teachings on Marriage, sexual morality and life for fear of offending family members and fellow Catholics.

As Prof. George concluded, "The Gospel is true. The whole Gospel is true." So, if we deny the teachings of God, through His word...we are living ashamed of the Gospel. **Prof. George advises," Never be ashamed of the Gospel."** 

Read more: https://tinyurl.com/5n7x6zjb https://tinyurl.com/5fj8c3fh