



27 September 2021

## **Freedom of Religion**

Freedom of religion or belief is guaranteed and protected by Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. In South Africa freedom of religion is protected by the SA Constitution, (Chapter 2 Bill of Rights) Section 31, - but more importantly it is a lifestyle for all who come a very long way, reverently, edifying and worshipping since creation. The Christian religion is marked by a morality, ethics, a biblical world view with God at the centre and conduct recognised for its contribution to civilization as well as development progress over many ages. There where Christians are denied, suppressed, accused, executed or martyred, societies, governments and progress decline under the effect of unrighteousness. In South Africa increasing government interference, and subtle to blatant discrimination against Christians and Christian practice, are on the increase, - whether by means of controversial Covid-19 rules, legislation or litigation. Are we as Christians in South Africa zealous, passionate and persevering to keep the faith in grace and in action against the gates of hell until the last trumpet will sound? United Christian action and uncompromised standards of truth from fully functional, full gospel churches in SA are more important than ever! While the opportunities for church leaders to excel in protecting their flocks abound in these signs and times, every Christian needs to pray and make a practical faith in action difference for righteousness through every channel and on every possible field and terrain, six days a week.

## **Vryheid van Geloof**

Vryheid van geloof of oortuiging is gewaarborg en beskerm deur Artikel 18 van die Universele Verklaring van Menseregte, Artikel 18 van die Internasionale Konvensie oor Burgerlike en Politieke Regte en die Verklaring oor Uitwissing van Alle Vorms van Onverdraagsaamheid en van Diskriminasie Gebaseer op Geloof of Oortuiging. In Suid Afrika word godsdienstvryheid deur die SA Grondwet, (Hoofstuk 2 Handves van Regte) Afdeling 31, beskerm, - maar meer nog, want dit is 'n leefstyl vir almal wat al baie ver kom in eerbied, stigtelikheid en aanbidding sedert die skepping. Die Chirstelike geloof is gekenmerk deur 'n moraliteit, etiek, 'n bybelse wêreldbeskouing met God sentraal daarin en is bekend vir die bydrae tot beskawing asook ontwikkelingsvoortgang oor baie eeue. Daar waar Christene ontken, onderdruk, beskuldig, vervolg en gemartel word, gaan gemeenskappe en ontwikkeling agteruit onder ongeregtheid. In Suid Afrika is daar toenemende regeringsinmenging saam met 'n toename in subtiele tot blatante diskriminasie jeens Christene en Christen gebruike, - hetsy deur aanvegbare Covid-19 regulering, wetgewing of hofgedinge. Is ons as Christene in Suid Afrika ywerig, passievol en volhardend om ons geloof te behou in genade en goeie werke teen die hekke van die hel todat die laaste basuin weerklink? Gesamentlike Christen aksies en vlekkelose standaarde van waarheid vanuit ten volle funksionele en volle evangelie kerke in SA is

belangriker as ooit! Terwyl die geleentede vir kerkleiers om uit blink in die beskerming van hulle kuddes gedy in hierdie tekens en tye, behoort elke Christen te bid en 'n praktiese verskil te maak vir geregtigheid deur elke kanaal en op elke moontlike veld en terrein, ses dae van die week.

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