

No To Censorship – Offensiveness is not a crime!

Christian fundamentalists are protesting **Jerry Springer: The Opera** claiming that it is blasphemous, offensive to their religion, and even that “God is insulted” by it. They'd like to see it closed down, because they only agree with “free” speech when they decide what's acceptable and what isn't.

But free speech means just that – **free** speech, without any limits. Who are they to tell the rest of us what we can and can't do, hear, see, speak, read or think? What gives them the right to extend their moral judgment and rules into our lives, or intimidate others into submission to their will? They have **no right** do do this at all!

If external limits are imposed on free speech to suit the sensibilities of one particular group, then then it is not “free” in the slightest. Free speech is not meant to be easy to swallow – it is as ugly as it is beautiful, and it comes kicking and screaming, not caring in the slightest if it upsets a few people on it's way.

Free speech and free expression are essential for a healthy society for all of us, and are an inalienable right. No government, no law and especially no religion should ever be allowed to impose limits on them – otherwise, we might well still be believing that the world was flat, and that the Sun orbited the Earth.

As a free thinker, I do not believe in “God”, and do not subscribe to anybody else drawing on “sacred” texts to arbitrarily decide what is and isn't suitable for me – I decide for myself. What can be asserted without proof can be dismissed without proof, and so until the existence of “God” is proven, there is every reason to question, dissect and if desired, ridicule and laugh at those who choose to believe in the improbable. Religion is just an idea, and no idea deserves special protection. If I believed something crazy, I'd expect to be laughed at too! Censorship is dangerous, offensive and insulting to us all, because it prevents free expression.

Assertions that “God is offended” cannot be proven, though it's extraordinarily convenient how he is, apparently, offended by the same things as these patronising self-appointed religious morality police are. Humanity has been making gods in it's image since the dawn of time, and Christianity is no exception.

However, we should all be free to believe in whatever crazy stuff we want to, as long as we don't enforce our beliefs on other people. Nobody is forcing them to watch this show, so why can't they “turn the other cheek” and leave us alone?

The “right to not be offended” is as unenforcable as it is ridiculous. Say no to censorship – the most harmful and greatest evil around! Free expression for **all!**

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