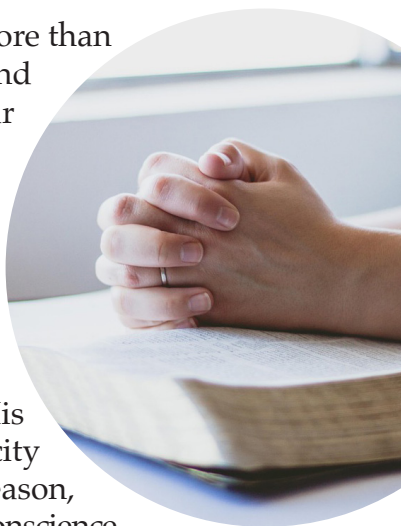


RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Words that Work

Religious Liberty is about more than your freedom to believe in and worship God. It protects your right to live out your faith-- even in the public square.



RESPECT

Share what you value: respect for all people.

Because God created us in His Image and gave us the capacity to exercise free will and to reason, the exercise of each person's conscience

- I value the *dignity and free will* of each person.
- I support *protecting free expression* for all people, even if they believe differently than I do.

JUSTICE

People crave the validation of standing for justice, so invite them to stand *with* you.

- Will you join me in protecting *human rights and upholding human dignity*?
- Help *ensure that voices of faith are not silenced*?

GENUINE CONCERN

Effective persuasive conversations require the speaker to know their audience and establish trust with them before logic and reason can be heard. First, show them that you *care*.

- Stress the importance of sincerely held faith, and share how *faith positively shapes lives and communities*.
- Share that people of all faiths, or no faith at all, deserve to feel *valued* and *respected*.
- Remind them that *where faith thrives, people thrive*.
- Encourage them to *create an environment where faith can thrive* in the public square.



GIVEN BY GOD



“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

--Genesis 1:27

“...See, I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him...”

--Deuteronomy 30: 19-20

“Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.”

--1 Peter 2:16

Our Creator is the source of our liberty. We must recognize that an attack on religious liberty is also an attack on God’s good design, including:

- The inherent dignity of every human being, made in the Image of God
- The freedom of choice that God gives to each individual person
- The most basic of civil rights, instituted by God

PROTECTED BY LAW

Government has a duty to protect Creator-endowed liberties, including religious liberty and freedom of expression.

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;”

--First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution

“Respect for religious expressions is indispensable to life in a free and diverse Republic—whether those expressions take place in a sanctuary or on a field, and whether they manifest through the spoken word or a bowed head.”

--Kennedy v. Bremerton School District

“No person shall be denied...the enjoyment of his civil or political rights or be discriminated against in the exercise thereof because of religion...”

--Michigan State Constitution, Art. I, §2

“Every person shall be at liberty to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience.”

--Michigan State Constitution, Art. I, §4