



True Freedom: On Protecting Human Dignity and Religious Liberty

Timothy M. Dolan

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On Protecting Human Dignity and Religious Liberty

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, Archbishop of New York

Are American liberties on the endangered species list? In this eBook original, the Archbishop of New York and president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issues a plea for all citizens to reject the cynicism of the day and foster a culture in which religious freedom and all human life are infinitely valued.

Religion and the dignity of human life are under attack by a variety of threats in the modern world including abortion, infanticide, eugenics, misuse of artificial reproductive technologies, an unjust distribution of economic resources, war, the arms trade, drugs, and human trafficking. What can be done to stop this? Cardinal Timothy Dolan explains the need for all Americans to embrace a new culture rooted in what Blessed John Paul II called the Gospel of Life where the sacredness of all human life, and the freedoms that are their birthright, are upheld, respected and protected by law.

True Freedom: On Protecting Human Dignity and Religious Liberty Details

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From Reader Review True Freedom: On Protecting Human Dignity and Religious Liberty for online ebook

Bojan Tunguz says

Cardinal Timothy Dolan is an imposing figure in Catholic Church today. His influence on American Catholicism and American culture in general are undisputed. However, he is increasingly projecting his influence beyond American borders. Dolan's unwavering commitment to "affirmative orthodoxy," his personal charm and charisma, and his media savvy are all qualities that the modern Catholic Church needs in its leaders.

This short Kindle single is an insight into Cardinal Dolan's thinking and the issues and causes that animate him. The first one of these - protecting human dignity in all of its particularities against the assaults of the modern relativistic culture - has been a major source of concern for the Catholic Church for several decades. The second one - protection of religious liberty - has unfortunately become increasingly prominent over the past few years. Many have heralded the fall of communism, myself included, as the final victory for religious freedom among other things. Regrettably, that sentiment now seems to have been premature. Recent trend have witnessed and increasing encroachment on the individual and institutional religious freedoms, all under the guise of greater social good. This book is a simple and succinct attempt to elucidate and define the stakes in this battle.

Cardinal Dolan is a very direct person, and this directness comes through in this writing. This ebook opens with an anecdote from his life as a parish priest in Saint Louis, Missouri. It concerns an elderly couple that had to receive the communion at their home because of husband's crippling paralysis. It puts in vivid and personal terms what's at stake when it comes to the defense of individual human dignity and why it matters.

Cardinal Dolan is often criticized as a staunch conservative, especially in matters that pertain to American domestic politics. However, his criticism in this book is not just of the left and its policies, but it cuts across the political spectrum. This book will probably give pause to people of all political persuasions. It clearly shows that Cardinal Dolan is primarily concerned with defending Church's own values and perspective, regardless of the prevailing political trends and attitudes.

The latter part of this ebook contains the introduction to A People of Hope: Archbishop Timothy Dolan in Conversation with John L. Allen Jr. It is a very well and balanced take on the person of Cardinal Dolan, and his significance in today's Catholicism. It gives an outsider's perspective on this charismatic and genial Church leader, and it may induce you to take a deeper look at him through a book-length interview.

Sam Fink says

Disappointing. Brief and not overly insightful. The brief blurb on Dolan's biography or current CV was interesting but not thorough.

Lisa says

This is only 18 pages - the rest is an excerpt from A People of Hope-so there's no excuse not to read it. (\$1/18 pages...interesting to think of rate per pages, no? What would you pay for your favorite author? But I digress...)

As with a lot of things I've read lately, this seems to be common sense...(Although I guess we should begin calling it uncommon sense.) It's a good synopsis of Evangelium Vitae and has some rockin' Pope Benedict quotes.

Louis Barbier says

The book expounds on the meaning of true freedom for man as an individual, as a community and as a nation. If you ever wonder what keeps practicing Catholics attending mass every Sunday where it would be easier to just lie in bed until high noon then this is a must read. You will also learn about where Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan Archbishop of New York stands on the doctrine of the Catholic Church. As a bonus this book also contains an excerpt from "A People of Hope" that are Conversations with Cardinal Timothy Dolan and John L. Allen Jr. who is a journalist that covers religious matters globally. Now from my standpoint I am old school. I received my initial religious training from my mother than moved on to formal training in what was then called Catechism. All of this was prior Vatican II. One of the lasting prayers I learned was the saying of the Holy Rosary. This was said as a family every day and we all believed that 1CThe family that prays together stays together. 1D I still say the Holy Rosary and believe that all is possible by saying the rosary. It is the greatest weapon against evil in the world. In the final analysis it is a matter of "Faith, 1D which is a gift from God. Over the years my faith has deepen because the church has taught me that we must all have a personal relationship with God; that means God should be your best friend. The late pope and now Saint John Paul II said often to not "Be Afraid." This book also points this out coming from a great church leader of our times. But hey, I don't want to reveal everything but take this with you that in these trying times who best than God can we ask for help in our lives. As God as often said and it is found written throughout Holy Scripture: Jesus said to him, 1CI am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. 1D --- John 14: 6

Oscar says

Simple and enduring ideas to guide us through the rough times we live in today. It is a wonderful world we have been entrusted with and to better take advantage of its marvels we need to understand that True Freedom comes with true responsibility. The end result of true Freedom and Responsibility is immediate true joy. Timothy Dolan does an excellent job that appeals to our reason and our heart and does it with intellectual honesty and great courage. A moral beacon for our time.

Kevin Holmes says

If you've already read John Paul II's Evangelium Vitae, then you probably don't need to read this short one. It basically summarizes the teaching regarding the gospel of life and the culture of death.

Alicia says

Great little introduction to what role the Church feels it ought to play in keeping our culture's view of the value of people on a solid grounding. Here's are two brief samples:

"The importance of ecology is no longer disputed. We must listen to the language of nature and we must answer accordingly. Yet I would like to underline a point that seems to me to be neglected, today as in the past: There is also an ecology of man. Man too has a nature that he must respect and that he cannot manipulate at will. Man is not merely self-creating freedom. Man does not create himself. He is intellect and will, but he is also nature, and his will is rightly ordered if he respects his nature, listens to it, and accepts himself for who he is, as one who did not create himself. In this way, and in no other, is true human freedom fulfilled." (quoting Pope Benedict XVI)

"God made me in His own image; I am God's work of art; He calls me by name; He knows me better than I know myself; He loves me so powerfully, personally, and passionately that He wants me to spend eternity with Him; I am worth the precious blood of His only begotten Son; I come from Him and am destined to return to Him for all eternity; His intention is that human life be protected from conception to natural death; every human life demands respect; and a culture can only survive that has as its law the stewardship of human life."

Ryan says

Cardinal Dolan's words are so true and much needed. I didn't care too much for the excerpt from John Allen's new book on Dolan. I'm not a big fan of Allen. While it's not surprising that Dolan trusts him, I still can't figure out why Abp. Chaput does. I must be missing something.

Kelly says

Outstanding!

Donna says

This is sort of a broadside in this hour in which Catholics are being challenged in our political freedoms. I read this as one of my disciplines during this Fortnight of Freedom. The archbishop's argument is one that has been said before; however, he says it quite succinctly. Namely, that this country's laws originated in Christianity even though the founders did not claim orthodox Christianity, that freedom is not the right to do whatever one wants to do but the right to do the right thing and that just laws are tethered to God rather than to a nebulous relativity. The last part of this small publication is an introduction to John Allen's forthcoming book on the archbishop. It will be an extended interview rather than a traditional work which interviews everyone who ever knew him.

Kevin Bensema says

Timothy Cardinal Dolan's very short work concerns itself with basis of freedom in objective truth. Building off the Blessed John Paul II's The Gospel of Life, Dolan discusses natural law ("Natural law is a concept of objective truth, known by anyone with the power of reason") as the source of moral knowledge and the foundation of civil law. He focuses on John Paul's opposition of the "culture of death" and its concern with "having and doing" with the "culture of life" and its focus on "being." Modern secular ethics tend to ascribe a right to life to individuals based on certain functional characteristics of those individuals. Such an approach ethically enables the holocausts of the modern age (abortion) and allows groups to use arbitrary and often unjustified and unexplained criteria to de-humanize certain weaker groups. The focus of such ethical theories - if one can call them that - is on the self. Dolan talks about the preoccupation of this culture with consumerism, pragmatism, and utilitarianism - three "isms" which ultimately have the self as the focus and source of meaning. Such beliefs naturally exclude external objective truth, as any independent source of guidance would destroy the symphony of self-affirmation and self-importance. The "culture of life" on the other hand, correctly recognizes the right to life as pre-existing (a human right, recognized by governments, rather than a civil right, granted by governments) and innate. This philosophy should be important to those who concern themselves with liberty (in addition to good Christians); without an objective basis of rights, the inviolability of said rights fades into the mists of relativism.

I liked the book.

Naomi Young says

I mastered using the highlight function of my Kindle Touch while reading this pithy little explanation of natural law and religious liberty. The star knocked off is because fully half of this little ebook is an excerpt from a John Allen book *about* Dolan, which felt a bit like an advertisement. Perhaps the publisher added it to give context to the essay -- who is the author and why should we listen? -- but I don't think anyone who would buy this is unaware of the Cardinal's identity. Perhaps it was added to make the book seem to be worth the dollar you pay. That wasn't necessary.

Bryan says

Cardinal Dolan's book is a short, but powerful reminder of the risks that religious liberty is facing, not only from the government, but from apathetic citizens who believe that the only moral code that exists is the one they set for themselves.

Anyone concerned with the future of the Catholic Church, or religion in general should give this book a read.
