

# The Importance of Checks and Balances Within a Pluralistic Society

*Why Law School graduates from Trinity Western University  
are entitled to practice their profession in Canada*

In the preamble to the Canadian Constitution the statement is made that our country will be governed by the "Supremacy of God and the Rule of Law." Both of these are essential for our country to maintain because as we hold the tension between the excessive extremes that can result from either one of them being lost, and the other becoming predominant, the resulting effect would be an unhealthy polarization within society.

A suspension bridge maintains its integrity because of the tension in the wires supporting the span of the bridge. Suppose one wire breaks; the span is incapable of maintaining its integrity, it sags to one side and eventually collapses.



Governments need to be held from lapsing into totalitarianism by applying to them the tension of religious freedom.

religious freedom. In a democratic society there will always be those who hold

contrary views to the ruling government and these views may come from the religious convictions that some of the citizenry hold. This results in checks and balances that hold the government from sliding down the slippery slope into totalitarianism, where only those things of which the government approves are tolerated within society.

In earlier years the church being allied with the state fell into the opposite extreme of saying, only those things of which the church approves will be tolerated within society. And it used the state as an ally to reinforce its position. Wisdom prevailed at that time and saw the need of the state to be separate from the dictates of the church, but at the same time to be informed by the moral principles the church held.

In these days society is turning further and further away from the church and tending towards following the injunctions of the government as it persuades society into following its dictates of political correctness. Now the pendulum is swinging in the other direction, with apparently nothing to stop it.

For example the recent reluctance of the courts of Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to allow the graduates from the law school of Trinity Western University to practice law in those provinces is a case in point.

Are we to say that Jews and Muslims and Buddhists who practice law shouldn't do so because they too have religious convictions that may be contrary to what a minority group in our society deems to be politically correct, and has persuaded the politicians that their view is the right one for the government to hold?



Surely if we were to do this we would be losing the legal skills which the graduates from these law schools have attained. That a particular law school holds religious views that other law schools purport not to have should not have any bearing on the whether the graduates from that law school have the ability to practice law. The test should not be what the religious views they consented to study under were, but their ability to understand interpret and apply Canadian Law in a pluralistic society.

Each one of us has a worldview, and it may be different from those who live in society with us. We don't want everyone to have precisely the same views as

we have, but to celebrate the unity we share together in our cultural diversity. Let's not ban graduates from the Trinity Western University from practicing law simply because they agreed to sign a statement of conduct that is contrary to the politically correct thinking of our times.

Jesus recognized the tension between the requirements of His Kingdom and the dictates of the Roman government which ruled the land of Israel when he was alive. In not giving in to the political correctness of his time he held the moral tension he brought into life against those of the government, thus providing people with a clear alternative. This brought a stability that hitherto had not be present in the lives of people.

A study of the succession of Roman Emperors reveals the murder, violence, intimidation and political maneuvering that went on from the succession of one emperor to another. Jesus on the other hand established his kingdom within the hearts of mankind as a kingdom of peace. And encourages all people everywhere to exhibit the Fruit of the Sprit as they turn their hearts to him: These are Love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness and self control. Gal 5:22-23. If everyone were to exhibit these qualities in their lives our world would be a far better place to live in. The graduates of Trinity Western University Law School have Christian convictions, and are attempting to demonstrate the Fruit of the Spirit in their lives. Instead of discriminating against them because they hold these convictions shouldn't we be welcoming them into Canadian Society as full and free members of it, and inviting them to practice law amongst us?

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