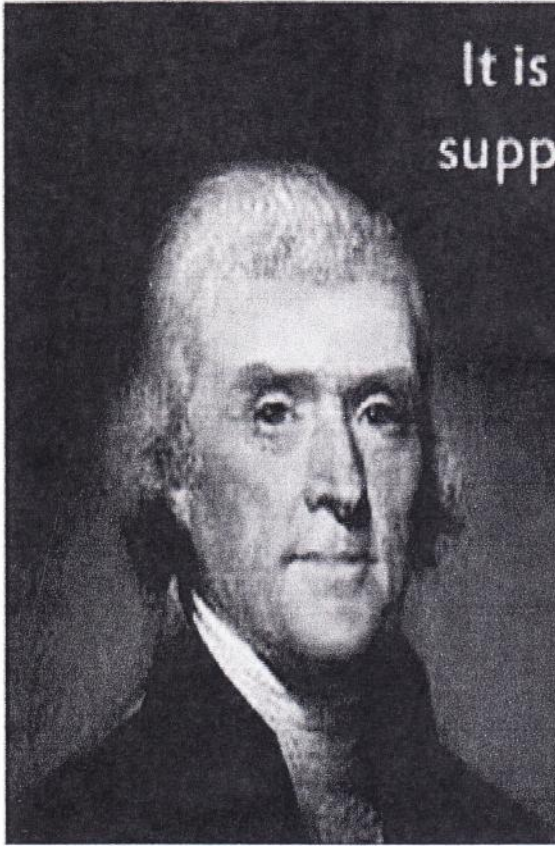


# THE POPE ON CRITICISM OF RELIGION



It is error alone which needs the support of government. Truth can stand by itself.

--THOMAS JEFFERSON

**NYRON  
MEDINA**



## THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.*



Terrible has been the words of the pope upon the minds of fanatics who would murder people for knowledge especially if the knowledge is offensive and said in a wrong way. The aim of knowledge in free speech and expression is the blessing of people, thus knowledge is meant to save people's lives. To kill a person because one does not like the knowledge he expresses is to defeat the purpose of all knowledge. Here is what the pope said. "Pope Francis has said there are limits to freedom of expression and that following the Charlie Hebdo attack in Paris 'one cannot make fun of faith.'" **Pope Francis: Freedom of expression has limits.**

We are also told. "Asked about the attack that killed 12 people at the offices of Charlie Hebdo – targeted because it had printed depictions of the prophet Muhammad – he said: 'One cannot provoke, one cannot insult other people's faith, one cannot make fun of faith. There is a limit. Every religion has its dignity ... in freedom of expression there are limits.' He gestured to Alberto Gasparri, who organizes papal trips and was standing by his side, and added: 'If my good friend Dr. Gasparri says a curse word against my mother, he can expect a punch. It's normal. It's normal. You cannot provoke. You cannot insult the faith of others ... Cautioning against provocation he said the right to liberty of expression came with the obligation to speak for "the common good.'" **Ibid.**

However Jesus, whom the pope claims to represent on earth, never boxed anyone, especially those Talmudic Jews that often in the name of religion, has spoken very degrading of His mother Mary. But the pope's statement contains many falsehoods. For example; religion does **not** have **dignity**, neither can a person's faith be **insulted**. These are false doctrines used by Muslims over and over, who criticize Christianity in a most vehement way, and threaten and murder Christians because of their faith. This is hypocritical propaganda that has been aided by the pope. It is people that can be offended, insulted and provoked, but if their religion cannot motivate them to act civil in the face of adversity, then it has to be **false**. Freedom of speech and expression has the limits of injuring a person's **reputation** with falsehood and securing public decency to preserve the morals of the people. But government ought never to seek to support religion by legislation and prosecution because it may be supporting **error** and hence is being a disservice to the people's need for enlightenment for moral and spiritual progress. Truth can stand by itself, because its contents can win the consciences and acceptance of the people, but it is always a sign of weakness when a religion needs the government to aid it by legislation. **False religion can never have dignity**, because it will cause a person to be lost (Revelation 21:8; Revelation 22:15); what is so dignifying about that? The Bible contains Jesus' denunciation of the religion of the Pharisees and Scribes in such a horrible way in public (Matthew 23), and the last remnant church on earth is given a message by Jesus to publicly denounce with threatened wrath from God all the false religions that in one way or another trample upon and oppose the Commandments of God (Revelation 14:9-12; Revelation 18). How can that be done without persecution if false perceptions about the criticism of religion is given by the pope who globally is seen as a moral standard? Clearly the pope is preparing God's people for global persecution by sending the wrong messages to people. May God have mercy on us. Amen.