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# “Personal Faith Forts”

...a way of viewing the right of:  
“Freedom of Religion”

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What better place to think?

## Introduction

In American public schools in the 1960's, study of the history of the quest for religious freedom focused on the persecution of various religious groups of people by other religious groups of people. The lesson that I took away from the public school studies was that I was free to belong to any religious group that I chose, or none at all.

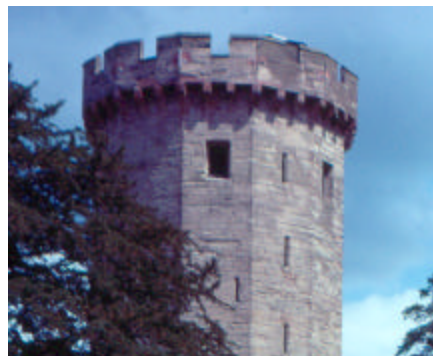
Curiously: concurrently, a generally positive spin was put on “The Crusades”, and/but not all four were mentioned. Afloat in the Mediterranean Sea, the 4<sup>th</sup> Crusade (A.D.1201-1204) was hard-up for cash; Venetian financiers enticed the Crusaders to attack Constantinople, the center of the Eastern Orthodox Christian Church, on their way to the Holy Land - in exchange for being financed. After a long siege, Constantinople fell to the Crusaders. Constantinople was so weakened by the Christians-bashing-Christian conflict that the Muslims conquered the place a half century later. The 4<sup>th</sup> Crusade never made it to the “Holy Land”. Perhaps history offers no finer example of the fact that a group of *zealots* can be unpredictable & destructive, and worse: wildly irrational. Such behavior can be likened to the hazard of having “a loose cannon rolling around the deck” of a ship. Prudence recommends possessing the tools and skills to distance ones-self from zealots.

I have been slow to grasp that religious freedom is a **personal** right – an insight that empowers individuals to be completely indifferent to all forms of religious persuasion by other people, to the extent that the individual chooses. Additionally, individuals have the right to express their personal religious views. Together, these rights create...

### Personal Faith Forts:

In this analogy, each individual is free to stand on their battlement and display whatever faith-fireworks they choose.

My faith-fireworks can be seen at:  
[www.setterholm.com /Religion/  
“LutheranConcerns&Suggestions.pdf”](http://www.setterholm.com/Religion/LutheranConcerns&Suggestions.pdf)  
... no evangelism is intended  
beyond encouraging thoughtfulness.



(An image of part of Warwick Castle, in England.)