

*The Global Public Square:
Religious Freedom and the
Making of a World Safe for
Diversity*

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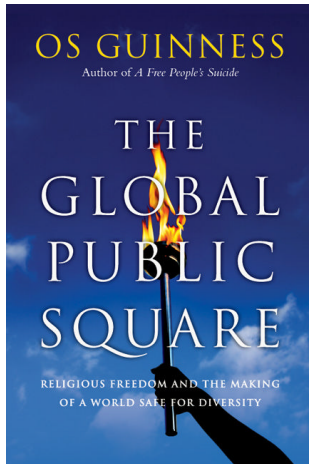
Guinness: How Do We Live With Our Deepest Differences?

In his groundbreaking new book, Os Guinness (*The Case for Civility, A Free People's Suicide*) articulates a much-needed solution for maintaining personal freedom amidst the conflicts that arise in modern life. Calling this concept "soul freedom," Guinness offers a constructive vision for how society can address the issue of human dignity and justice for all.

- What is "soul freedom"? Why did the American founders call this the "first liberty"?
- What makes the concept of "soul freedom" so important now, in the 21st century?
- How did the culturally turbulent times of the 1960s and postmodernism contribute to the confusion that surrounds the concepts of human dignity, liberty and equality today?
- How does addressing global religious freedom help solve humanitarian crises while moving toward global security?
- What does it mean to argue for "right over might and principle over policy"?
- Why is soul freedom for realists and idealists? And how can religious freedom be for secular and religious people?
- Why are people today so hesitant to believe that a civil public square is possible?
- Why is the need to live together civilly with diversity so urgent?
- How has freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief slowly eroded over time?
- How do we construct a civil public square?

Throughout *The Global Public Square* Guinness presents the need to find, globally and publically, our individual soul freedom. Writing to all people, he takes a step outside of the current analyses and reports on religious conflicts, oppressions and persecutions, calling for partnership between religious and secularist leaders to lead the world forward.

"This is a closely reasoned and eloquent defense of religious freedom," writes Peter L. Berger, professor emeritus at Boston University. "This is a book that should be read by everyone concerned with freedom of conscience, not only in the face of murderous persecution as still exists in many places, but also with the more subtle threats by political orthodoxies in Western democracies."



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The Crunch Generation

“If you could be born in any generation other than your own, which would you choose?” I was first asked that question at Stanford University, and I hesitated before replying. What did the questioner have in mind? My family is Irish, but I was born in China and spent my first ten years there, and since then I have lived in Europe and North America and visited many other parts of the world in both hemispheres. Possible responses flashed through my mind, ranging from the Athens of Pericles to the Rome of the Emperor Hadrian, to the China of the Tang or Ming dynasties, to the Florence of Lorenzo de’ Medici, to the America of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and James Madison, and the England of William Pitt and William Wilberforce. But almost instantly I knew my answer before I had time to debate these other periods.

“Your generation,” I said. “I would like to be a member of your generation because in your lifetime you will witness some of the most crucial years humanity has ever navigated.”

The present generation now rising to its early adulthood across the earth can be described as “the crunch generation” because of the present state of the global era and the many crucial issues converging to challenge humankind. In his last speech to the British House of Commons, Winston Churchill asked the question “What if God tires of the human race?” He was referring to the apocalyptic possibilities of the nuclear issue in the 1960s. Today, a generation later, a wide raft of issues—economic, technological, demographic, social, political, medical, environmental, as well as nuclear—is crowding in to menace the horizons of the world that is almost at the door.

If the coming generation answers these issues responsibly and well, the world can look forward to calmer sailing. But if they are answered badly or not at all, the prospects for the future and for the future of humankind are turbulent.

What then do we face? An inspiring new era for global humanity, a new dark age for the earth or a period of muddling through that lies somewhere in between? Only God knows the answer. Futurism is a murky science that often pretends to know far more than it does, but there are certain issues and certain problems that are clear beyond dispute. This book is about one of the biggest of them, the challenge facing all of us as the earth’s now billions of citizens: *Soul freedom for all and its answer to how are we to maximize freedom and justice and learn to live with our deepest differences, especially when those differences are religious and ideological – and in particular the answer to how are we to negotiate those differences in public life, and so create a global public square that is worthy of our heritage as members of free and open societies.*

– From chapter one, “The Golden Key: Soul Freedom for All”

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Os Guinness

Os Guinness (D.Phil., Oxford) is a prolific writer and social critic. He is the author or editor of more than twenty-five books, including *The American Hour*, *Time for Truth*, *The Call*, *A Free People's Suicide* and *The Case for Civility*. Previously, Os was a freelance reporter with the BBC, a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution and a guest scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Studies.

From 1986 to 1989, Os served as executive director of The Williamsburg Charter Foundation, a bicentennial celebration of the First Amendment. In this position he helped to draft The Williamsburg Charter, which was signed by former presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford, Chief Justices William Rehnquist and Warren Burger, Coretta Scott King, Elie Wiesel, several members of Congress and many others.

A prominent social critic, Os is the founder of the Trinity Forum and was senior fellow there until 2004, conducting seminars for leaders around the world and publishing seven major curricula. He has been a frequent speaker and seminar leader at political and business conferences in both Europe and the United States, and has addressed audiences from the British House of Commons to the U.S. Congress. He has also been the subject of numerous media interviews, appearing on programs such as C-SPAN's "Booknotes." His countless addresses at leading universities worldwide have helped to influence an entire generation of thinkers.

Os lives with his wife, Jenny, near Washington, D.C.