

The background is a vibrant blue with a subtle, repeating pattern of circuit board traces and circular nodes. A central black rectangular box with rounded corners contains the main text in white. The text is centered and reads: "THE ETHICS OF WHAT NOT TO SAY" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font, is "PRESENTER: DR. CHARLES W. CHRISTIAN".

# THE ETHICS OF WHAT NOT TO SAY

PRESENTER: DR. CHARLES W. CHRISTIAN

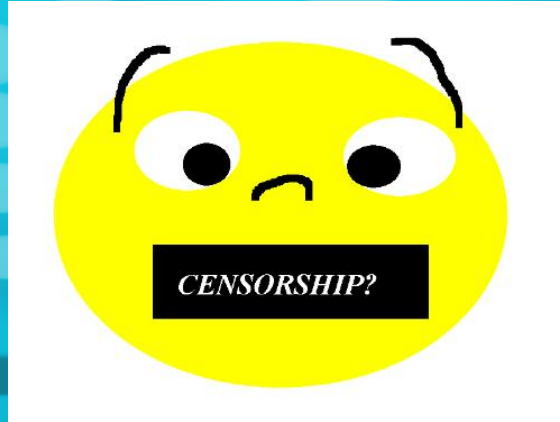




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# CENSORSHIP

Technically, censorship is a *legal* term that usually pertains to *government* restrictions upon the speech of individuals or other entities.

The popular notion of censorship extends to the restriction of speech by one party upon another, and censorship discussions are centered around the use of power.

# TYPES OF CENSORSHIP

- Self-censorship – *Editing, changing, or deleting your own work. There are no laws against self-censorship.*
- Direct/Hard Censorship – *Active suppression of materials.*
- Indirect/Soft Censorship – *Applying financial pressure to views deemed “contrary” while rewarding views that are “in line.”*
- Political Censorship – *Withholding politically “damaging” information, including military secrets.*



# TOP CENSORING COUNTRIES

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BR1miR6pgR4>



# ALL KINDS OF MEDIA. . . .

- Discussions of censorship in recent years have expanded from traditional media platforms like radio, newspaper, and television, to social media and other internet entities.



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# LEGAL “CENSORSHIP”



Private entities including Facebook and Twitter, as well as religious organizations, in most cases, are allowed to censor material and even restrict the accounts or words of individuals, unless there is a contract in place or a particular union regulation that introduces an exception.



This can be aggravating, but it is not illegal. However, it is valid to question the *morality* of these kinds of decisions.



## REASONS TO CENSOR

- The image of the organization – *Will this writer/contributor detract from the overall image or message of the organization?*
- Safety – *Will this story put a member of the organization or someone in the story/report in danger of losing freedoms or life?*
- Proprietary secrets – *Will this story/report/author unnecessarily compromise a competitive secret that could damage the company?*

# REASONS TO OPPOSE CENSORING

- Unnecessarily limits a key voice in the organization (or that the organization needs to hear for its betterment)
- Withholds necessary transparency from the organization or key players associated with the organization
- Covers illegal/immoral activities that affect the health of the organization (withholding from accountability)



## WHAT IS THE MOTIVE?

- Why shouldn't we share this?
- Why SHOULD we share this?
- Are we playing hide and seek with each other?
- Are we playing hide and seek with key shareholders?
- Are we running from necessary change or accountability?

# THE COSTS

- Censorship is ultimately about cost – financially or otherwise.
- Pushing back at censorship can be costly
- Being held accountable for censoring for wrong motives can be costly, too
- Public trust is very difficult to regain once betrayed



# ETHICAL DILEMMA

- Where is your line in regard to protection/safety of the organization and transparency?
- What are situations where you would risk your job in order to push back (or otherwise work around through other entities) in regard to censorship?
- When is censorship good, and when is it dangerous to the organization?

# THE PROCESS

- Is there a process within your organization where censorship decisions can be appealed?
- Does this process involve a diverse (even if small) group of people, or one or two decision-makers (who may share the same outlook/views)?
- Do you know the Whistleblower Laws in your state and the policies in your own organization?

QUESTIONS?



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