***Sterling, of course, has the freedom in this country to say whatever is on his mind,***

**Jeremy, that is false. We have laws against conspiracy, slander, inciting to riot, and other forms of speech.**

***but he doesn’t have the right to say it with impunity and without the expectation of repercussions.***

**from Wiktionary:**

**impunity: "Freedom from punishment or retribution; security from reprisal or injurious consequences of an action, behavior, etc."**

**Jeremy, no one has unlimited freedom of speech as I pointed out earlier. We have limited freedom of speech. But if there are repercussions ... then it cannot be free speech. That is a contradiction in terms.**

**Let me phrase it in a way an Atheist could understand. If you are threatened with eternal torture for not believing in God, then you do not have freedom of choice ... it's called "coercion."**

**That's just one example of the kinds of contradictions that fuel Christian cognitive dissonance.**

***Just as we can’t make slanderous or libelous statements against other people in private or otherwise without potentially incurring a lawsuit,***

**Jeremy, in private? Really? Have you submitted your application for the NSA yet?**

**I'm sure they would bypass the usual requirements, for the opportunity to hire someone like you ... someone who thinks exactly the same way they do.**

**George Orwell's 1984 pales in comparison to the type of mind and speech control you want.**

**(and next time, look up "libelous" *before* trying to use it in a sentence).**

***racists thoughts and the unpleasant people who make them must continue to be pushed to the margins of society.***

**Jeremy, that is continuing to happen:**

[**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ku\_Klux\_Klan**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ku_Klux_Klan)

**From 6 million to 6 thousand. Now that's what I call ... progress.**

***Sterling is free to live in whatever 1950s-themed, deluded universe he thinks still exists, but the rest of us have moved on.***

**Jeremy, let's hope we don't move on into the kind of world you apparently hope for - one where a person can be punished for their private thoughts and words, when those words don't measure up to the standards of the majority.**

**Now Jeremy writes a follow-up article**

***Mike Pesca with Slate, while admitting that Donald Sterling is a “vile racist,” has erroneously argued that the L.A. Clippers owner shouldn’t be made to surrender his “property” for thoughts he made in private.***

**Jeremy, Pesca was wrong: Sterling is not being "made to "surrender his property" ... he is being forced to sell it (that is not the same thing). That was the error Pesca made that you should have caught.**

***In the article, he speaks as if the Clippers were an independent corporation operating outside of the purview of the rest of the league. This is obviously not the case. As an association, the NBA consists of its member teams, the owners, administration and an oversight “board of governors,” as outlined in the recently released NBA constitution.***

***True, Sterling “owns” the team, as in he paid for the franchise, but the Clippers are not a piece of property like a house or a new car. It is a franchise, just like a chain restaurant. As one commentator on Pesca’s article pointed out, a person can’t buy a Subway franchise and then drape KKK banners all over the store and expect to immediately get shut down by Subway the corporation.***

**Jeremy, that's another error you missed - false analogy.**

**To even attempt to compare draping banners in public to expressing one's opinions in private is ridiculous.**

***I thought this explanation from Benton Love was spot on:***

***"Here’s the problem: a sports team is not really “property” in the sense that a house or a plot of land is property. It’s a franchise or at least it’s like a condo in a building with a strict HOA policy.***

***It’s a franchise that affects the value of other franchises in the league and that league–apparently–has mechanisms in place to regulate the other franchise holders in the event that one of them goes off the reservation and damages the value of the other franchises (i.e. this exact case).***

**Jeremy, Benton didn't explain how Sterling's racism damages the value of the other franchises. To assume that it does is to imply that Americans are incredibly stupid. Anyone who paints all NBA franchises as racist because of the rantings of one old fart, must have their tv remote set permanently to Fox News.**

***He still retains all economic claims on his franchise and will receive a very good market price for those claims. But he doesn’t have the right to total carte blanche operatorship of his franchise if it damages the others and they can vote in an overwhelming majority fashion (75% apparently) to strip him of his operatorship in the same way that an HOA can vote to evict a condo owner that violates building policies."***

**Jeremy, Benton failed to understand that the owners also don't have total carte blanche control. They have rules and laws they must abide by. To force Sterling to sell his team, they must have legitimate reasons to do so, based on those rules and the law.**

**I get the distinct feeling that you believe they do. You apparently believe that he can be forced out based on his privately expressed personal opinions.**

**Jeremy, that scares me a whole lot more than one old man's racism. George Orwell predicted people like you, Jeremy. I had always hoped he was wrong. Now I'm not so sure.**

**CONCLUSION**

**Jeremy, the way to fight racism and all forms of bigotry is NOT by selling out our freedom of speech, and our freedom to express our thoughts in private. The way to fight racism is by having the courage to confront it and smash it.**

**If you need examples of how it is done, these might help:**

[**http://www.theskepticarena.com/archives.aspx**](http://www.theskepticarena.com/archives.aspx)

**(scroll down to podcast #215 - "neo vs. neo-Nazis")**

[**http://www.theskepticarena.com/politics.aspx#racismStories**](http://www.theskepticarena.com/politics.aspx%23racismStories)

**(scroll down to the last story in the race section - "Lonewolf Pittsburgh")**