

**RELIGION AND ITS FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
IN THE *DE JURE* REPUBLIC
The True Meaning of "Separation of Church and State"**

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; . . ." -The Constitution for the United States of America, Amendment I.

If we truly believe that the writings of the founding documents of our nation, The Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution with its Bill of Rights, were divinely inspired, in the same way that many of our founding fathers believed themselves to be divinely directed, then we should look to those documents for the answers when faced with a dilemma in government.

How does my freedom of expression of religion interface with your freedom of simply not wanting to hear it? It is very simple, and is plainly revealed to us: ". . . the free expression thereof . . .". I have the right to display a nativity scene on my private lawn, but I do not have the right to display one on your private lawn. I have the right to speak openly of my faith to those who want to hear, but I do not have the right to use high-powered public address sound equipment to blast my message to those inside their homes who do not want to listen. The Constitution has to mean what it says and say what it means; otherwise it is useless as a guide to our Republic. ". . . The free expression thereof . . ." must not only protect the peoples' right to free exercise of religion, but also the rights of those to whom, for whatever reason, ". . . the free expression thereof . . ." means not choosing that religion or any other.

Does a minister have the right to lock the church doors during his sermon to prevent the congregation from walking out on him? If you come to his church, and it is his appointed time to speak, must you punish yourself by enduring his long-winded, un-anointed, and often unscriptural storytelling simply because he has the platform? The answer is quite obvious. If you have the right to come to the church, you also have the right to leave as well. The minister's "free expression thereof" in no way obligates you to participate in his belief.

On the other hand, one's "free expression thereof" does not allow him to use a public platform as a stage to a captive audience, to try to show everyone how spiritual he is. If a person is trying desperately hard to live a good life, he will not have to tell others about it; they will be able to see it for themselves, manifested in the fruits of his life. If Jesus presented Himself to mankind on a "whosoever will" basis, who are we to try to change anyone's mind against his own will?

In summary, just as no one has the right to infringe upon your freedom to express your religion, so also you do not have the right to push your beliefs onto those who do not want to hear. Again, it is on a "whosoever will" basis.

If we are truly servants of the people, we need, first and foremost, to be about the business at hand when we meet, or when the legislature and the courts are in session. A short opening and closing prayer has historically always been in order. Even to this day the *de facto* corporation legislature and Supreme Court begin sessions with prayer. There is even a website where the chaplain of the *de facto* House of Representatives posts the opening prayers for each day. Please note that these prayers are not intended to proselytize a captive audience into any particular sphere of doctrine, and neither should ours be so intentioned. There is nothing in any human prayer that could tell God something He does not already know. He is not going to learn anything from our long-winded prayers. Our prayer must rather be an acknowledgment of His sovereign hand in the working of the affairs of our government. Every public prayer within a *de jure* republican government should be sincere, direct, and quickly to the point. Let us not deceive ourselves into thinking we are heard of God by our ". . . much speaking . . .".

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion . . .".

Any attempt to establish a national religion in America would result in a catastrophe so monumental that not even the existing *de facto* corporate government would want to go there. Other nations have tried and are still trying this, and it often results in war. For this reason the original *de jure* Republic, as well as the *de facto* government, have never done this. The re-inhabited Republic for the United States of America has no intention of violating any part of this amendment, and the establishment of any national religion or state church will not be tolerated.

The "separation of church and state."

This idea is at the heart of the most heated ongoing debate in our nation about the First Amendment to the Constitution. The debate is fueled by the fact that this phrase is nearly always misquoted and taken out of context. To settle the question once and for all, we must establish some facts.

First of all, the words "separation of church and state" are not mentioned anywhere in our founding documents; they are nowhere to be found in the Declaration of Independence, and nowhere in the Preamble to the Constitution, the Articles of the Constitution, or in any of the Amendments. Similar words are found in translations of the constitution of the USSR -1947, Article 124. Similar words are also found in a letter written by Thomas Jefferson to the Danbury Baptist Association in January of 1802. Paragraph two of Jefferson's letter states his reverence for the exact wording of the First Amendment: ". . . make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof . . .", and his acknowledgment that with those words the writers were "thus building a wall of separation between Church and State." Notice that Jefferson never said God or religion could not be in government. He did say that government could not be involved in establishing, directing, or controlling religion. These two ideas are not synonymous, but clever unprincipled individuals have used misquotes and words out of context in their arguments. They have twisted an original concept of "government must stay out of the church" -the true meaning of "separation between church and state" into a perverse idea that no religious activities or references of any kind can be allowed in any form in American government -separation of God and government. This perversion of the founders' intent was allowed to happen because of the corruption of the political process by evil men and enabled by the laziness and neglect of moral people to hold their elected leaders accountable. Again, "separation between Church and State" does not mean that religion can not be in government; it means government can not be involved in religion.

There are some who advocate having no prayer at all in the Republic, no scriptural quotations, not even the mention of God in any Republic writings or verbally at a Republic convened session. Some may even say that Republic leaders need to abandon all religious associations in their personal lives, and that refusal to do so is in violation of their oath of office. I find it especially disturbing that some are willing, by "prohibiting the free expression thereof", and by misusing "separation between Church and State", to so quickly sweep away rights clearly protected by the First Amendment. Only misguided individuals totally ignorant of our national history would do this.

God and Religion in Our Founding Documents

The argument has been made that because our founding fathers never made any mention at all of God in our Constitution, it is in some way unlawful or beyond our enumerated powers if we in any way reference Him while in our official capacities or while the courts or legislature are in session. This is a great example of making a correct observation, then using faulty logic to arrive at an erroneous conclusion. If the Declaration of Independence is our foundational document, then the Constitution is our operational document. It is possible that there was no need to mention God in the Constitution because so many references were made to Him in the Declaration of Independence.

Even though religion (God) was not mentioned in the body of the Constitution, it was number one in the Bill of Rights, and apparently of utmost importance to our nation's founders. It is even before the "right to keep and bear arms . . ." which is the "teeth" that defends all other liberties. Again, the Constitution is an operational document intended to contain all the instructions necessary for the implementation of our foundational document, the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration stated our natural right to govern ourselves, free of the tyranny of evil men: ". . . We hold these truths to be self evident . . ." It was acknowledged by the founders, even those few who did not actively practice any religion, that God made all men with unalienable rights, not privileges; thus, the many references to God in the Declaration. If God was everywhere in the foundation (the Declaration) of our nation, then it is assumed that He is the basis for the operation (the Constitution) of our national government. In any case a valid argument can not be made merely on the basis that because a specific word is not present in the Constitution, it has no place in the affairs of government. For example, Article I Section 8 talks of promoting "the progress of science and useful arts; . . .". There is no mention of the possible military application of science. In fact, the militia, army, and navy were the only military entities mentioned. Since electricity, computers, the air force, submarines, and outer space technology were not mentioned by name in the Constitution, does this make them constitutionally unavailable for use in the "common defense?" The answer is emphatically "no!" When we read the document in context, we easily see the intent of the framers; just as scientific progress prior to that time was being used in the "common defense", so also future technological advances could be employed by the military. We are simply saying that the constitutional permission has been granted to us by the recorded written intent of its framers. It is up to us and wise leaders in our Republic to be sure wisdom prevails in every crisis.

When we read the body of the Constitution, together with the Bill of Rights, keeping in mind the Declaration as the foundation, we easily see the intent of the writers. Government acknowledges the rightful place of God and religion, but must use wisdom to stop short of establishing a national religion.

Historical Evidence of the Founding Fathers' Intent

History has recorded numerous quotes, letters, and other writings by our founding fathers that reference God, the Bible, Christianity, and religion in general; many of these communications occurred while these men were in office. Courts and the legislature opened sessions with prayer, and still do so today. Obviously, therefore, there is no merit to the idea that members of the Republic should not make any reference to God or religion while holding office or in session.

For this reason, I am including the following quotes from many of our founding fathers, framers of the Constitution, and Supreme Court justices, as well as other prominent men in our history to shed light on the true vision they had of the role religion should play in America. (Please note: When using

quotes and referencing events that in some cases occurred over 300 years ago, it often becomes difficult to find true original sources. All of the following have been found in at least two different sources. Readers are welcome to do their own research.) As Woodrow Wilson stated, *"A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do . . ."*.

-- *"It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge . . . God, to obey his will . . ."* -George Washington

-- *"The religion which has introduced civil liberty is the religion of Christ and His apostles . . . to this we owe our free constitutions of government."* -Noah Webster

-- *". . . It is the duty of nations as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God . . . and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord."* -Abraham Lincoln

-- *"And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God?"* -Thomas Jefferson

-- *"At the time I was motivated by the Scriptures to go to discover the Indies . . ."* -Christopher Columbus

-- In Boston in 1700, Samuel Sewall condemned slavery in America and related it to the Biblical story of Joseph being sold into slavery.

-- In Philadelphia, 1753, the liberty bell arrives from England in good condition with the following inscription on it (Leviticus 25:10): *"Proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all the inhabitants thereof."*

-- In a letter to James Madison, Noah Webster wrote, *"The Christian religion in its purity is the basis, or rather the source of all genuine freedom in government . . . I am persuaded that no civil government of a republican form can exist and be durable in which the principles of Christianity have not a controlling influence . . ."*

-- On July 4, 1775, George Washington issued a general order to the troops which read, in part *". . . forbid profane cursing, swearing and drunkenness; And in like manner requires and expects, of all Officers, and Soldiers, not engaged on actual duty, a punctual attendance on divine Service, to implore the blessings of heaven upon the means used for our safety and defence."*

-- Upon the signing of the Declaration of Independence, John Adams wrote, *"It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty."*

-- John Adams wrote in his diary, *"Suppose a nation in some distant region should take the Bible for their only law book and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there exhibited. . . . What a Eutopia – what a Paradise would this region be!"*

-- In Philadelphia, in the summer of 1787, delegates came together to write the Constitution for the United States of America. It has been said that 52 of the 55 members were orthodox members of established Christian communities. There were approximately 29 Anglicans, 16 to 18 Calvinists, 2 Methodists, 2 Lutherans, 2 Roman Catholics, 1 Quaker, and 1 deist (Benjamin Franklin). It is a safe assumption the goal of these men was not to establish a total secular society void of any reference to God.

-- John Adams said, *". . . Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other . . ."*

-- In 1828 Noah Webster said, *"Every civil government is based upon some religion or philosophy of life. Education in a nation will propagate the religion of that nation. In America the foundational religion was Christianity and it was sown in the hearts of Americans through the home, private and public schools for centuries. Our liberty, growth and prosperity was the result of a Biblical*

philosophy of life. Our continued freedom and success is dependent on our educating the youth of America in the principles of Christianity."

-- "The Bible is the cornerstone of liberty." -Thomas Jefferson

-- Monticello.org has a large list of documented references to scripture that Thomas Jefferson has made in his writings (over 300 references they have counted so far):

<http://www.monticello.org/site/research-and-collections/current-cumulative-index-b>

-- "The Bible is the rock on which our republic rests." -Andrew Jackson

-- "In my view Christian religion is most important and one of the first things in which all children under a free government ought to be instructed." -Noah Webster

-- The Supreme Court's (Washington D.C.) ruling in 1892 in *Church of the Holy Trinity v. the United States*, provides enlightening reading on how the founding documents of our nation and the various states show that Americans are indeed a religious people. The opinion summarizes the whole matter in this way: "These and many other matters add a volume of unofficial declaration to the mass of organic utterances that this is a Christian nation. . .".

<https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/143/457/case.html>

Conclusion

All Americans must know that freedom is not free. Our liberties are not to be taken lightly. Once liberty is lost, a dreadful price must often be paid to redeem it. Americans are today engaged in a civil war. It is not a war fought with weapons, but it is a war of ideas, beliefs, concepts, and values; it is a war involving what concepts and values will have the preeminent influence over our population in the future. If America fails to look back in an accurate and comprehensive manner at the extent to which God has been instrumental in the discovery, formation, and preservation of our nation, we will not only lose our national heritage, but our individual liberties as well. Our founding fathers described this scenario best; America would become only a "byword mentioned among the nations."

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http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/amendV-VI_criminal_processs14.html

http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/amendV-VI_criminal_processs52.html

-- To Kelby Smith for providing documentation on the Danbury Baptist Association letter to Jefferson and his reply. See <http://www.wallbuilders.com/libissuesarticles.asp?id=65>

-- [A Nation Adrift - Standing at the Crossroads of America's Destiny](#) by New Liberty Videos, with all its authors, contributors, researchers, and archivists, known and unknown.