

GOD

ONE NATION

The Problem? Americans have been deliberately separated from God by our government.

A verbal prayer may not be recited in school even if it is voluntary and non-denominational. 1962.

A student cannot say grace aloud over school lunch. 1965

Students do not have the right to free speech when it comes to religion. 1965.

It is illegal for the government to erect a war memorial that is in the shape of a cross. 1969

A school board cannot refer to "God" in any of its official writings. 1976

A teacher cannot explain the birthday celebrated as Christmas. 1979

It is illegal to merely post the 10 Commandments in school. 1980.

An extracurricular school group may not perform a song that promotes honesty, truth, courage and faith through "prayer". 1982

A moment of silence in school is illegal if the legislator who sponsored the law has a religious activity in mind. 1985

It is illegal for a school graduation ceremony to contain a prayer. 1985

It is illegal for a public Christmas display to contain a nativity scene, unless it is surrounded by sufficient secular symbols to prevent the appearance of religion. 1989

It is illegal for a public cemetery to have a planter in the shape of a cross, as it could cause "emotional distress" and injury. 1990

It is illegal for a school library or teachers to possess a copy of the Bible. 1990

A city seal celebrating the heritage of the community cannot use religious symbols. 1991

The 10 Commandments, though engraved in stone in the U.S. Supreme Court, may not be displayed at a public courthouse. 1993

Art work depicting something religious, even if an historical classic by Michael Angelo, cannot be displayed in schools. 1993

A student cannot voluntarily say a prayer when addressing an assembly at school. 1994

It is illegal for a school official to be honored at a public celebration organized/ sponsored by a religious group. 1995

Why should we care? Biblically Speaking

Psalms 78.

Give ear, Oh my people, to my teaching; incline you ears to the words of my mouth! I will utter . . . things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of God, and His might, and the wonders which He has wrought. He established the law, which commanded our fathers to teach to their children; that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments, and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation who's heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God. They sinned and rebelled against God, and tested Him in their heart. God grew angry and his wrath shown.. In spite of all this they still sinned; despite his wonders they did not believe. So he made their days vanish like a breath, and their years in terror. The people beseeched him, and repented, but they only flattered him with their mouths, they lied to him with their tongues. Their heart was not steadfast toward Him, they were not true to his covenant. They tested him again and again. For this he let loose on them his fierce anger, wrath, indignation, and distress . . . Yet they tested and rebelled against God, turned away and acted treacherously like their fathers; they twisted like a deceitful bow. They provoked him to anger with their high places. When God heard he was full of wrath, and utterly rejected Israel. He delivered his glory to the hand of the foe.

Strike them with terror, O Lord; let the nations know they are but men. Psalm 9:20.

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people. Proverbs 14:34.

The God of Israel spoke, "When one rules over men in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God, he is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning." 2 Samuel 23:3

When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice, but when wicked rule, the people mourn. Proverbs 29:2

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. Psalm 33:12

Jesus said, "Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:19

Has “Separation of Church and State” ALWAYS been the law?

I. Historical relationship between church and state

1. Founding Documents

a. Mayflower Compact (1620)

Having undertaken for the glory of **God** and advancement of the **Christian** faith . . . [we] combine ourselves together into a civil body politic for . . . furtherance of the ends aforesaid.”

b. Colonial Charters

- Massachusetts (1629) “our people so religiously, peaceably and civilly governed their good life . . . knowledge and obedience of the one true **God** and **Savior** of mankind, and the **Christian** faith . . . is the principal end of this colony”.
- Maryland (1632) “[Lord Baltimore] with pious zeal for extending the **Christian** religion . . .”
- Connecticut (1639) “For as much as it has pleased the **Almighty God** . . . [we] enter into combination to maintain and preserve the liberty and purity of the **Gospel of our Lord Jesus**”
- New Hampshire (1639) “We should not live without wholesome laws and civil government among us, in the name of **Christ** and in the sight of **God** set up among us such government as shall be agreeable to the will of **God**.”
- New Haven (1644) “The judicial laws of **God**, as they were delivered by **Moses** are to be a rule to all the courts in this jurisdiction”
- North Carolina (1662) “With a laudable and pious zeal for the propagation of the **Christian** faith . . .”
- Rhode Island (1663) “Pursuing with peace, serious and religious intention in the holy **Christian** faith . . .”
- Pennsylvania (1680) “William Penn out of commendable desire, the love of civil society and **Christian** religion . . .”

c. Declaration of Independence 1776

“When in the Course of Human events it becomes necessary . . . to assume . . . the separate and equal station to which the **Laws of Nature** and of **Nature’s God** entitle them . . . We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their **Creator** with certain unalienable Rights . . . appealing to the **Supreme Judge** of the world . . . with firm reliance on the Protection of **Divine Providence**, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our **sacred** Honor.”

d. State Constitutions 1776-1784

Christian Liberty ensures political peace and stability

- Connecticut (1777) “The People of this State by the **Providence of God** . . . and for as much as the free fruition of such liberties and privileges as humanity, civility and **Christianity** call for, as is due to every man in his place, will be the tranquility and stability of Churches and Commonwealth, and the denial thereof [will be] the ruin of both.”

Christian conduct is required

- Virginia (1776) “Section 16. That . . . all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience; and that it is the mutual duty of all to practice **Christian** forbearance, love, and charity towards each other.”

Protestantism required

- North Carolina (1776) “No person who shall deny the being of **God**, or the truth of the **Protestant** religion, or the divine authority of the **Old or New Testament**, or who shall hold religious principles incompatible with the freedom and safety of the State, shall be capable of holding any office or place of trust or profit in the civil department within this State.”
- New Jersey (1776) “XIX. That there shall be no establishment of any one religious sect in this Province, in preference to another; but that all persons, professing a belief in the faith of any **Protestant** sect who shall demean themselves peaceably under the government, as hereby established, shall be capable of being elected into any office of profit or trust, or being a member of either branch of the Legislature, and shall fully and freely enjoy every privilege and immunity, enjoyed by others their fellow subjects.
- Georgia (1777) “Article VI. The representatives shall be chosen out of the residents in each county, . . . and they shall be of the **Protestant** religion, and of the age of twenty-one years . . . ”

Equal Protection is for Christians, and Godly people

- South Carolina (1778) "Article 28. That all persons and religious societies who acknowledge that there is **one God**, and a **future state of rewards and punishments**, and that **God** is publicly to be worshiped, shall be freely tolerated . . . That all denominations of **Christians** in this State, demeaning themselves peaceably and faithfully, shall enjoy equal religious and civil privileges."
- New Hampshire (1784) "Article I, Section 6. Every denomination of **Christians** demeaning themselves quietly, and as good citizens of the state, shall be equally under the protection of the laws. And no subordination of any one sect of denomination to another, shall ever be established by law."

Christian Oath required

- Maryland (1776) "Article 25. "That no other test or qualification ought to be required, on admission to any office of trust or profit, than such oath of support and fidelity to this State and such oath of office, as shall be directed by this Convention, or the Legislature or this State, and a declaration of a belief in the **Christian** religion."
- Massachusetts (1780) "Chapter 6, Article I. All persons elected to State office must make and subscribe the following declaration, viz. 'I, _____, do declare, that I believe the **Christian** religion, and have firm persuasion of its truth."
- Delaware (1777) "Article 12. Every person who shall be chosen a member of either house, or appointed to any office or place of trust shall make and subscribe the following declarations, to wit: 'I, _____, do profess faith in **God the Father, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, and in the Holy Ghost, one God**, blessed to be given by divine inspiration."
- Vermont (1777) Section IX. . . . the house of representatives shall, each of them, take and subscribe, as well the oath of fidelity and allegiance herein after directed, as the following oath or affirmation, viz.
" I _____ do solemnly swear, by the ever living **God**, (or, I do solemnly affirm in the presence of **Almighty God**) that as a member . . ."
And each member, before he takes his seat, shall make and subscribe the following declaration, viz.:
" I _____ do believe in **one God, the Creator and Governor of the universe, the rewarder of the good and punisher** of the wicked. And I do acknowledge the **Scriptures of the Old and New Testament** to be given by divine inspiration, and own and profess the protestant religion
And no further or other religious test shall ever, hereafter, be required of any civil officer or magistrate in this State.

e. Articles of Confederation (1778)

“The said States hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other . . . to assist each other, against all force offered to, or attacks made upon them, or any of them, on account of **religion...in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-eight and the third year of the independence of America.**”

f. Constitution 1787

Art. VI, Section 3 says “No religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.” “Done in convention by the unanimous consent of the states present the Seventeenth Day of September in the **Year of our Lord on thousand seven hundred and eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth.**”

g. Northwest Ordinance 1787

“**Religion**, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.”
[It also provided that state constitutions not be contrary to this law.] “Done in the United States, in Congress in the **year of our Lord 1787**”

h. Bill of Rights 1789

1st Amendment: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof ”

I. Annals of Congress, September 1789 (same day Congress approved the First Amendment):

Resolved, that a joint committee of both Houses be directed to wait upon the President of United States to request that he would recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many blessings of Almighty God , especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a Constitution of government for their safety and happiness.”

j. Proclamation of President George Washington, October 1789:

“Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor . . . I do recommend . . . that we unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions . . . to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue.”

k. Iowa Constitution 1846

“WE, THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY OF IOWA, grateful to the Supreme Being for the blessings hitherto enjoyed, and feeling our dependence on Him for a continuation of those blessings, do ordain and establish a free and independent government, by the name of the STATE OF IOWA”

2. Founders’ Public Expressions

a. Benjamin Franklin (credited for the giving birth to the daily prayer in Congress) Constitutional Convention in 1787

“We indeed seem to feel our own want of political wisdom since we have been running about in search of it . . . during the War, all of us observed frequent instances of a superintending Providence in our favor. And have we now forgotten that powerful Friend? Or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance? I have lived, sir (addressing George Washington), a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth – that God governs in the affairs of men. We have been assured sir, in the Sacred Writings, that “except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it”. I therefore beg leave to move – that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service”.

b. President John Quincy Adams: “The highest glory of the American Revolution was this; it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity.”

c. President George Washington, April 30, 1789, inaugural address: “We ought to be no less persuaded that the smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained.”

d. President Washington “Religion affords government its surest support.”

e. President John Adams: “Religion and virtue are the only foundations of free governments.”

f. President Thomas Jefferson “Liberty to worship our Creator, while deemed in other countries incompatible with good government, has proved by our experience to be its best support”.

g. Noah Webster (1838 Dictionary)

Religion: Belief in the being and perfections of God, in the revelation of His will to man, and in man's obligation to obey His commands, in a state of rewards and punishments and man's accountability to God. The practice of moral duties without a belief in a Divine Lawgiver, and without reference to His will or commands, is *not* religion.

h. 1853-54 House/Senate Judiciary Committee

An "establishment of religion" is a definite creed, and doctrines, qualifications to teach and administer rights. There has never been an established religion without all these. Any attempt to level all religion and make it a matter of state polity to hold all in utter indifference will create universal disapproval, if not universal outrage. Religion must be considered as the foundation on which the whole structure of society rests. We must rely on religion for the purity and permanence of freedom.

I. President Abraham Lincoln, 1863 Gettysburg Address

"We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, UNDER GOD, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

j. "In God We Trust" was put on U.S. currency 1865

k. 1892 U.S. Supreme Court (case: Church of Holy Trinity)

"This is historically true. From the discovery of this continent to the present hour, there is a single voice making this affirmation . . . *organic utterances* that this is a Christian nation."

Historical Understandings of a Nation "Under God"

1. Laws of Nature/Nature's God

-Cicero (Roman General Counsel, murdered in 43 BC) wrote of his dream for a society based on Natural Law. Natural Law: the universal, eternal laws of nature, under God. To accept natural law is "right reason". To understand Right Reason is wisdom. Right Reason applied by government is "justice"

-John Locke (c1700): The Law of Nature stands as an eternal rule to all men, legislators as well as others. Man's laws must conform to the law of Nature, the will of God.

-Sir William Blackstone (1760's): The will of the Maker is called the Law of Nature. This law, dictated by God, is of course superior, no human laws are of any validity if contrary to this.

2. God's Will / Natural Law

- Scripture

- Ten Commandments

- Summarized by Jesus: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Love your neighbor as yourself.

3. Living the Law

-Colonial charters – The human objective is to know and obey God.

-Harvard University (1636) "Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well that the main end of his life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ."

-Yale University (1787) "All the scholars are required to live a religious and blameless life according the rules of God's Word."

Social Blessings of Natural Law (God's Law)

1. Virtuous Society

- It is religion and morality alone, which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand. The only foundation of a free Constitution is pure virtue. John Adams

-Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious they have more need of masters. Ben Franklin

2. Liberty

-Ben Franklin: "Freedom is not a gift bestowed upon us by other men, but a right that belongs to us by the laws of God and nature."

-While the people are virtuous they cannot be subdued; but once they lose their virtue, they will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader.... If virtue and knowledge are diffused among the people, they will never be enslaved. Samuel Adams

3. Individual Security

-“If ‘Thou shall not covet,’ and ‘Thou shall not steal’, were not commandments of Heaven, they must be made inviolable precepts in every society, before it can be civilized or made free.” John Adams.

4. Political Stability

-Our Constitution was made only for a religious and moral people; It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other.” John Adams

-Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political stability, religion and morality are indispensable supports. George Washington (Farewell Address)

WHAT happened?

We went from the Living Word to a “living” Constitution; from “freedom *of* religion” to “freedom *from* religion”.

WHEN did things change?

In 1947 the U.S. Supreme Court began to separate the church from the People when it declared:

“The First Amendment has erected a wall between church and state. That wall must be kept high and impregnable. We could not approve the slightest breach.”

WHY did things change?

By the early 1900's law schools were applying Darwinism (theory of evolution) to the law.

Just as organisms evolve and adapt, so should the law.

Man must discard the old notions of eternal and absolute truths.

The shift began in 1870 with Christopher Langdell, Dean of Harvard Law School. Under his influence, law schools began to teach that the role of judges was to direct the evolution of the law. (Recall that 250 years earlier Harvard was founded on the universal truths of Christianity)

By the 1920's law schools and lower courts were permeated with this secular philosophy. By the 1940's the U.S. Supreme Court was dominated by this kind of jurisprudence.

This replacement of **God's everlasting law** with **man's evolving law** is captured in the following quotes from Supreme Court Justices (1930-1950):

Benjamin Cardozo- “If there is any law which is back of the sovereignty of the State, and superior thereto, it is not law in such a sense as to concern the judge or lawyer.”

Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes - “We are under a Constitution, but the Constitution is what judges say it is.”

Chief Justice Earl Warren - “The Constitution must draw its meaning from the evolving standards that mark the progress of a maturing society.”

Under this jurisprudence, man's law was freed from the constraints of natural law. To complete the task, court's had to eliminate public expressions of faith, especially Christianity.

HOW did they do it?

1947 “Establishment Test” turned a noun into a verb, deliberately misinterpreted Thomas Jefferson, and ignored 150 years of legal history to the contrary.

The Court said: “The First Amendment has erected a wall between church and state. That wall must be kept high and impregnable. We could not approve the slightest breach.”

1-Re-wrote the First Amendment:

Congress shall make no law respecting *an establishment* of religion, or the free exercise thereof . . .”

Remember, the First Amendment only prohibited Congress, not the States, when it came to religion. So, the court simply applied the First Amendment to the States by coupling it with the 14th Amendment.

2-Re-wrote Jefferson’s statements about “separating church and state”

In 1802 President Jefferson responded to a letter from the Connecticut Baptists who were concerned that the first amendment did not adequately protect them [since religion’s inclusion in the amendment may suggest that religious rights are granted by government (alienable), not God (inalienable)].

In his letter to the Baptists he said, “Believing with you . . . that the legislative powers of government reach actions only and not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence **that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should ‘make no law** respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,’ thus building a *wall of separation between Church and state*. . . . I reciprocate your kind prayers for the protection and blessing of the common Father and Creator of man.”

Jefferson has also written the following on the subject:

“The power to **prescribe** any religious **exercise** must rest with the States.”

“The purpose of civil government is for its officers to interfere [only] when people break out into over acts against peace and good order. In this is found the true distinction between what properly belongs to the church and what to the State.”

“It is a universal truth that government will be constantly encroaching upon our rights if we allow them, but it is also true that there are also *certain fences* which experience has proved peculiarly efficacious against wrong and rarely obstructive of right, which yet the governing powers have ever shown a disposition to weaken and remove. Of the first kind, for instance, is freedom of religion.”

The point Jefferson makes is that religion *must* permeate society, and government must be powerless to stop it except when it works some ill on society.

Up until 1947 the Supreme Court agreed with Jefferson. Chief Justice Joseph Story (1811-1845) wrote, “. . . the whole power over the subject of religion is left exclusively to the State governments to be acted upon according to their own sense of justice and the State constitutions.” (1833)

In 1878 the Supreme Court said: “Jefferson’s letter may be accepted almost as an authoritative declaration of the *scope and effect* of the First Amendment. **Congress** is deprived of all legislative power over mere religious opinion, but left free to reach actions which are in violation of social duties or subversive of good order”.

The “ills” identified by the Court in 1878, were: human sacrifice, polygamy, bigamy, concubinage, incest, infanticide, parricide, and advocating immorality.

APPLY THIS ORIGINAL STANDARD TO THE MODERN COURT RULINGS

Today’s progressive judges rule that prayer at graduation *violates a social duty or is subversive to good order!*

3-Re-wrote the 14th Amendment

1868 14th Amendment - purpose was to make sure that newly freed slaves would be equally protected by state laws.

**That was followed by 5 attempts to create an amendment making it illegal for states to legislate religion. They all failed.

Yet, in 1947 the Supreme Court ignored all of the legal history and did it any way.

1971

“Lemon Test” legal religious activity (1) must be predominately secular in purpose (how is this possible?), (2) neither inhibit nor advance religion, and (3) create no “excessive” entanglement between government and religion.

1985

“Endorsement Test” *any* religious purpose at all makes an activity unconstitutional (in this case a law permitting a minute of silence for meditation at school was illegal because the law’s sponsor hoped it would allow students to pray)

1992

“Psychological Coercion Test” even a generic non-denominational prayer, delivered by a Rabbi at a high school graduation ceremony is illegal, because to an atheist it *may* feel like psychological coercion.

Are we better off today under the progressive approach?

A house build on sand . . .

*Therefore everyone who hears my words and does them, is like a wise man who built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the rivers came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; yet it did not fall: for it was founded upon a rock. But every one who hears my words, and does them not, is like a **foolish man** who built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the rivers came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell with a **great crash**. (Matt. 7:24-27)*

The foolish man (nation):

- Congress gets to pray, but school children do not.
- Public meetings may begin with prayer, but a moment to meditate in school is illegal.
- The Ten Commandments are engraved in stone at the U.S. Supreme Court, but cannot be posted at the local courthouse.
- The Ten Commandments cannot be displayed in a public school building because the students might read, meditate upon, respect or obey them.
- In 1984 the nativity at the courthouse was legal, but by 1989 it was illegal.
- In 1992 student-led prayer at graduation was legal, but by 1994 the same prayer is illegal.
- Ethics and philosophy are equal to religion since 1961.
- Atheism is equal to religion since 1977.
- Secular humanism is equal to religion since 1985.

The great crash:

Birth Rates of unwed girls (15-19) has nearly quadrupled under the “living” Constitution.
Violent Crime has grown 10x faster than our population growth
Sexually transmitted diseases have tripled in children ages 10-14.
Single Parent/Female Head of Households have outpaced population growth 3:1.
Abortion - 1.2 million per year, over 50 million since legalized
Euthanasia legalized
Gay marriage legalized
Corporate Corruption (Enron)
Financial market melt-down
Political Corruption
Runaway National Debt - \$11 trillion and exploding

Have we the Social Blessings God intended and our founders sought to secure?

1. Virtue or Vice
2. Liberty or Regulation/Taxation
3. Individual Security or Fear
4. Political Stability or Unrest and Corruption

WHAT ARE WE TO DO?

Thou shall provide out of all the people, able men, such that fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over the people to be rulers. Exodus 18:21

The children were brought to him that he may lay his hands upon them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people; but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:13-14.