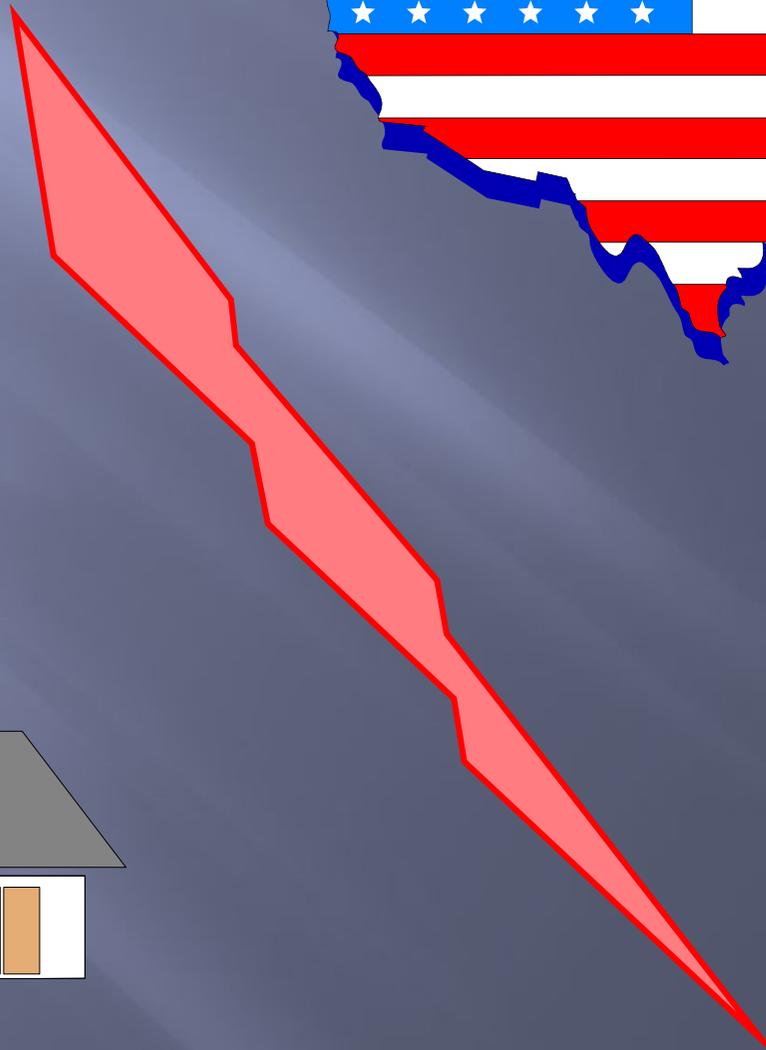


# Separation of Church and State?



Anyone who is interested in politics or history or the history of politics is familiar with the phrase "separation of church and state." The church-state relationship intended by the framers of the United States constitution is plainly stated in the constitution's first amendment which is found in the Bill of Rights. About this subject our wise forefathers wrote, "*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...*" This first amendment also prohibits infringement of speech, the press, and assembly, while it guarantees citizens the right to petition our government for redress of grievances.

Even a cursory glance at the first amendment tells the reader that our founding fathers intended to keep the federal government from intruding into its citizens' exercise of religion. The government was not to establish religions or to interfere in the affairs of religious groups that might be established by U.S. citizenry. The first amendment, therefore, was simply a guarantee of religious freedom—a guarantee that the government would not restrict anyone from practicing his own religion. The first amendment was not intended to become a tool with which politicians might restrict religious activities, whether conducted in private or in the public forum.

In other words, if someone does not like another's religion, it is not up to the government to interfere by restricting that religion perceived to be offensive. However, due to the influence of special interest groups which desire to further atheistic and other agendas, our government has begun to do exactly what the first amendment sought to prevent—to interfere in religious expression by forbidding the exercise of religion in various venues throughout our nation. The free employment of religious expression in schools, in courthouses, on public lands, etc., has been prohibited by our government based on the same amendment which guarantees that our government shall not restrict religion.

The first amendment prohibits interference with religion in the same way it prohibits intrusion into free speech, but today our courts bend over backwards to protect pornographers and atheists so they can purvey their filth and falsehood so as to infect our society, but the baby Jesus is forbidden to lie in a manger in the public square. Our forefathers did not calculate this unjust use of the constitution which was simply designed to protect the church from the state. Our courts have reversed what the great nation builders intended when they penned the first amendment! Our forefathers built this nation firmly on the

foundation of God, Jesus and the Bible! The best way to be certain of our founding fathers' intentions concerning religion is to read what they said in their own words. On the following pages great heroes of our early history reveal their intention to build a Christian nation, not a nation that denies God a part in its governance. (Italics represent this writer's emphasis.)

□ George Washington: Farewell to the Army - June 8, 1783

"I now make it my earnest prayer, that *God would have you, and the State over which you preside, in his holy protection,* that he would incline the hearts of the Citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to Government, to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, for their fellow Citizens of the United States at large, and particularly for their brethren who have served in the Field, and finally,

that he would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all, to do Justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that Charity, humility and pacific temper of mind, *which were the Characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed Religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy Nation.*"

George Washington: First Inaugural Address-Date:  
April 30, 1789

"There exists in the economy and course of nature an indissoluble union between virtue and happiness...we ought to be no less persuaded that the *propitious smiles of Heaven* can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained."

Thomas Jefferson: Notes on the State of Virginia,  
Query 18-Date: 1781

“ 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*? That they are not to be violated but with his wrath? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that *God is just: that his justice cannot sleep for ever.*”

Benjamin Franklin: Motion for Prayers in the  
Constitutional Convention-Date: June 28, 1787

“I have lived, Sir, 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*. And if a Sparrow cannot fall to the Ground without his Notice, is it probable that *an Empire can rise without his Aid?*”

James Madison: A Memorial and Remonstrance, Date: 1785

“It is the duty of every man to *render to the Creator* such homage, and such only, as he believes to be acceptable to him. This duty is *precedent both in order of time and degree of obligation, to the claims of Civil Society*. Before any man can be considered as a member of Civil Society, he must be considered as a *subject of the Governor of the Universe*.”

James Madison: letter to Edward Livingston-Date: July 10, 1822

“ We are teaching the world the great truth that Governments do better without Kings & Nobles than with them. The merit will be doubled by the other lesson that *Religion Flourishes in greater purity, without than with the aid of Government*.”

Samuel Adams: letter to John Trumbull, Date: October 16, 1778

*" Religion and good morals are the only solid foundation of public liberty and happiness."*

John Adams: Address to First Brigade of the Third Division of the Militia of Massachusetts, Date: October 11, 1798

*" We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."*

James Madison: proposed amendment to the Constitution, given in a speech in the House of Representatives, Date: 1789

“The civil rights of none, shall be abridged on account of religious belief or worship, nor shall any national religion be established, *nor shall the full and equal rights of conscience be in any manner, or on any pretext infringed.*”

John Adams: Thoughts on Government, Date: 1776

“It is the duty of all men in society, publicly, and at stated seasons, to *worship the SUPREME BEING*, the great Creator and Preserver of the universe. And no subject shall be hurt, molested, or restrained, in his person, liberty, or estate, for worshipping GOD in the manner most agreeable to the dictates of his own conscience; *or for his religious profession or sentiments; provided he doth not disturb the public peace, or obstruct others in their religious worship.*”

Benjamin Rush: On the Mode of Education Proper in a Republic, Date: 1806

*"The only foundation for a useful education in a republic is to be laid in religion. Without this there can be no virtue, and without virtue there can be no liberty, and liberty is the object and life of all republican governments."*

Benjamin Rush: Letter to John Armstrong, Date: March 19, 1783

*"Without religion, I believe that learning does real mischief to the morals and principles of mankind."*

Joseph Story: Date of statement unknown.

*"The promulgation of the great doctrines of religion, the being, and attributes, and providence of one Almighty God: the responsibility to him for all our actions , founded*

upon moral freedom and accountability; a future state of rewards and punishments; the cultivation of all the personal, social, and benevolent virtues--*these never can be a matter of indifference in any well-ordered community.* It is, indeed, difficult to conceive how any civilized society can exist without them."

Francis Scott Key: Wrote Star-Spangled Banner, 1814

"The patriot who feels himself in the service of God, who acknowledges Him in all his ways, has the promise of Almighty direction and will find His Word in his greatest darkness, 'a lantern to his feet and a lamp unto his paths,' ... He will therefore seek to establish for his country in the eyes of the world, such a character as shall make her not unworthy of the name of a *Christian nation.*"

Joseph Story: U.S. Supreme Court, 1811-1845

“ One of the beautiful boasts of our municipal jurisprudence is that *Christianity is a part of the Common Law*...There never has been a period in which the Common Law did not recognize Christianity as lying at its foundations. . . [The law] pronounces illegal every contract offensive to [Christianity ' s] morals. It recognizes with profound humility [Christianity ' s] holidays and festivals, and obeys them [even to the point of suspending all government functions on those days]. It still attaches to persons believing in [Christianity ' s] divine authority the highest degree of competency as witnesses.”

John Jay: letter to Peter Augustus Jay, Date: April 9, 1784

“ *The Bible is the best of all books*, for it is the word of God

and teaches us the way to be happy in this world and in the next. *Continue therefore to read it and to regulate your life by its precepts.*"

Most of the men quoted above are well known and need little introduction other than to say that they were instrumental in framing the Declaration of Independence or the U.S. Constitution. Benjamin Rush, Joseph Story, John Jay and Fisher Ames might be less well known to the reader, however. Benjamin Rush (1745-1813) was an American statesman and influential physician. He was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, a member of the Continental Congress and Treasurer of the U.S. mint from 1797 to 1813. Joseph Story (1779-1845) was an

Associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1811 to 1845. In 1900 Story was elected to the Hall of Fame for Great Americans. John Jay (1745-1829) was president of the Continental Congress, helped draft the New York Constitution and became the first Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Fisher Ames (1758-1808) was an American statesman educated at Harvard, a delegate to the 1788 Constitutional Convention and a five term member of the U.S. House of Representative. In quote after quote our founding fathers, the framers of our constitution and those who occupied the highest places of leadership in our early government, reveal that they believed in the absolute necessity of personal religious faith and obedience, stating time and again that the personal religious character of our nation's citizenry must be reflected also in our government if the new republic were to be successful. As great as George Washington, John

Adams, and Thomas Jefferson were, they were also humble enough to know that those who govern must include God in the process. Such men would never have intended to frame a constitution designed to create a godless government — a government that pushed God out of all things public.

For many years schools in the United States used the Bible as a text book and scholars openly prayed to our Creator through His Son Jesus. Religion was an integral part of education and moral principles were drawn from the Judeo-Christian heritage. Armed with faith in a Divine Creator and the teachings of His Son, the United

States of America grew to be the strongest nation this world has ever known. The traditional family life structure provided functional citizens who contributed to a thriving society.

Today, political correctness has taken the place of true morals once taught at home and in schools. Dishonesty, deceit, selfishness and pride rule in our government because men have succeeded in separating church from state. Our children grow up without a moral compass because godless, dysfunctional families, unrecognizable as the institution established by God in the Bible, are littered with alcohol, drugs, infidelity and immorality. The church, the family and civil government are God's three institutional gifts to man. Unless these institutions work together, a nation cannot be strong because no nation will be strong if its citizenry is morally weak.

By removing God from family, schools and government we have placed a burden upon the church that it cannot bear—alone it cannot fix society. Without proper teaching our children will grow to adulthood not knowing the difference between right and wrong, never looking to God for wisdom. Many such godless men occupy important leadership positions today. The Apostle Paul in Romans 1:20-32 forecast for all generations the consequences of godlessness in society, warning that any nation which eliminates God from its key institutions will soon begin internal decay. Just as our founding fathers warned, godless men and nations will most certainly self-destruct.