



Focus on Religious Freedom

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The Decline - and Possible Fall - of Religious Freedom in America

"Historically, religion and its adherents have often been oppressed by government. By contrast, America has been singular in its dedication to preserving the freedom of its people to expect and experience religious freedom. **That is now rapidly changing,**" wrote Kelly Shackelford, president of First Liberty law firm. ⁽¹⁾ In the past year there have been a number of violent attacks on churches, church gatherings, statues of Jesus, Virgin Mary, saints and monuments. Churches, synagogues and other church services have been banned or severely restricted, while liquor stores & casinos are allowed to be open. "A nation truly committed to religious freedom would, in a time of national crisis, welcome the essentiality of religion's exercise - not ban it." ⁽²⁾

Religious liberty court cases have increased at an alarming rate. From the Constitution's ratification until 1940, there were only 3 Supreme Court cases challenging religious freedom. But since then, more than 75 cases have come before the high Court. Religious freedom has been under increasing siege for eight decades now. ⁽³⁾

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

John Adams, Founding Father and second president.

Speaking at the Univ. of Notre Dame Law School on Oct. 11, 2019, A.G. William Barr said that attacks on religious liberty have contributed to a moral decline in this country. "Secularists and their allies have marshaled all the forces of mass communication, popular culture, the entertainment industry, and academia in an unremitting assault on religion and traditional values." ⁽⁴⁾

"The moral problems Barr mentioned in his speech - plus murder, mayhem, and other forms of anti-social behavior - will continue until we regain our moral footing," wrote Dr. Walter E. Williams, professor of economics at George Mason University. "I am all too afraid that a historian, writing a few hundred years from now, will note that the liberty America enjoyed was simply a historical curiosity. Then it all returned to mankind's normal state of affairs - arbitrary abuse and control by the powerful elite." ⁽⁵⁾

(newsweek.com, 8/5/20(1)(2)(3); dailysignal.com, 10/23/19(4)(5); the guardian.com, 10/19/19; deseret.com, 12/29/04; frc.org, 12/2/10)

**"It's the duty of everyone to defend religious freedom and promote it for all people."
- Pope Francis**