



## Focus on Religious Freedom

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### Christians Must "Stand Strong" or Risk Losing Religious Freedoms

"Christian persecution should be seen as, and treated with, the same level of urgency as any other human rights crisis," said Gia Chacon, founder of For the Martyrs. "We have to realize that religious freedom does not mean that we have the ability to go to church. ... Religious freedom means that we have the ability to practice our deeply held religious beliefs in every area of society." <sup>(1)</sup> If Christians do not stand strong now, anti-Christian movements and attacks will only get worse, and we will soon lose our religious freedom.

#### **Christian College Asks Supreme Court to Uphold Its Biblical Beliefs**

"College of the Ozarks (MO) should be free to follow the religious tradition on which it was founded. The government can't strip a private, faith-based institution of its constitutionally protected freedoms because it disagrees with its views about marriage and sexuality," said Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) Senior Counsel. <sup>(2)</sup>

The college is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to review a directive from the present administration that forces the school to allow male students into female dorms. "Young women should not be forced to share private spaces with men. That's what this case is about - the ability of a religious school to protect its students," said ADF. <sup>(3)</sup> "We hope the Supreme Court will take this case to halt the government's inappropriate order targeting religious institutions and to respect the privacy, dignity and safety of female students." <sup>(4)</sup>

#### **Defending Free Speech and Religious Freedom for Georgia Police Officer**

Georgia police officer, Jacob Kersey, was wrongfully pressured to resign his job after refusing to remove a Facebook post on his personal account that upheld a biblical view of marriage. Since Kersey was forced to choose between his faith and his job, he felt he had no choice but to resign. Nearly 35,000 citizens signed a petition to defend Officer Kersey. It read, "At a time with sky-high crime rates nationwide, our communities should be supporting our law enforcement officers.... This is religious bigotry. We will not stand for this." <sup>(5)</sup>

"I think God has really used this (situation) to continue to sound the alarm on the attack on religious liberty," said Former Officer Kersey. "Mine's not the only case. Obviously, you have coach (Joe) Kennedy, you have the fire chief Kelvin Cochran, and others like (Christian baker) Jack Phillips - ... I think it's just God using it to sound the alarm to hopefully wake people up." <sup>(6)</sup>

***"Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes,  
you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."***

***Ephesians 6:13***

(lifesitenews.com, 2/22/23(1); 1.cbn.com, 3/2/23(2)(4); thecollegefix.com, 3/13/23(3); news.world.edu/christian, 3/3/23; firstliberty.org, 3/17/23(5); dailysignal.com, 3/8/23(6); georgialawnews.com, 3/19/23)