



Focus on Religious Freedom

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The Most Successful Propaganda Does Great Harm to Our Nation

Within the commentary and opinions from media, law firms, politicians and organizations analyzing Constitutional freedoms, there is much agreement that most Americans have no understanding of the source, meaning and implications of the concept of separation of church and state. The twisting of Thomas Jefferson's support for the rights of conscience and free exercise of religion has been called the most effective propaganda in the United States.

As a result, we too often unnecessarily censor our own speech and our children's, especially in public schools. We take down holiday displays and remove monuments of the Ten Commandments, remove Bibles from public spaces, and are hyper-sensitive to this wrongly defined line of separation of church and state. Teachers, priests, religious and parents too often assure our volunteers they "understand there is no prayer in school because of separation of church and state." We patiently and kindly correct their misunderstanding.

In fact, Pres. Jefferson received a letter from the Danbury Baptists, concerned about religious freedom in their own state and in the Federal Constitution. Jefferson responded:

"Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between Man & his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legitimate powers of government reach actions only, & 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 & State. Adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend to restore to man all his natural rights, convinced he has no natural right in opposition to his social duties."

President Jefferson's reply taken with recurring, clear statements and actions of our founders evidence an intention for the support of a moral and religious citizenry. Our forefathers would have never accepted or permitted the restrictions on religion or conscience that are enacted today under the banner "Separation of Church and State.," The intent of the founders was not to establish the government as a God-free zone, but to ensure that matters of religious conscience and practice were a government-free zone.

"The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state, and never its tool."

- Dr. Martin Luther King

Read more here: <https://bit.ly/3RHkK5O> <https://bit.ly/3Rk6r0H> <https://bit.ly/41nFrll>