
Truth about the Separation between Church and State

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Introduction — one of the most misunderstood and abused phrases in America today is — **Separation between Church and State.**

Question — How many think the phrase is in Declaration of Independence? Constitution? Bill of Rights?

Answer — *It is in none of those.*

**It has been wrongly applied and repeated so often
it has then been ascribed a legal power that it was never intended to have.**

Commercial shown during Democratic debate five days ago — Ron Reagan Video

Ron Reagan (son of former President Ronald Reagan) self-proclaimed atheist with the “Freedom from Religion Foundation” — declared

- a) “concerned about intrusion of religion into our secular government”
- b) “keeping church and state separate, just like Founding Fathers intended”
- c) “not afraid of burning in hell” — with a tone and smirk that defies God and mocks Christians. Mr. Reagan needs an encounter with God’s love and truth, pray for him.

Purpose Today — *to take an accurate look at our nation’s history, and the beliefs of so many of our founders — so we can be further equipped to be passionate servants of Jesus Christ in the nation God has given us.*

Challenge — there is so much information and evidence for the Christian influence in the forming of our country, it is very hard to pick which points to make.

What role did Christianity play in the founding of the United States?

Answer — **Mayflower Compact of 1620** — “In the name of God... by the grace of God... for the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian religion.”

**From that point forward there’s too much connection
between God, Gospel, and Government
to even hope to mention in a series of messages.
Volumes have been written!**

What is the truth behind the phrase *separation between church and state*?

- English Anglicanism was official religion of the colony of Virginia; other denominations allowed, but hassled and harassed
- 1786 Virginia enacted Thomas Jefferson's "Statute for Religious Freedom"
- 1791 First Amendment to U.S. Constitution was adopted — "*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;*"

Point...

There shall be **no** official, established religion of the government, all are free to choose their own, and, there shall be **no** government prohibition or interference in the free exercise of the religion you choose... freedom **of** religion, freedom **for** religion, freedom **from** religion so long as *you don't prohibit people from exercising their religion.*

Danbury Baptists in 1802

- this minority was nervous about official state religion, and wrote President Jefferson — he responded in a private letter:
- **Jefferson's response** —
"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."
- Quotes First Amendment, assures no official religious denomination of the state, **that is it! Freedom of, for and from — but not prohibiting!**
- President ends letter with prayer —
"I reciprocate your kind prayers for the protection and blessing of the common Father and Creator of man, and tender you for yourselves and your religious association, assurances of my high respect and esteem."

Ha! — according to freedom *from* religion people today, President Jefferson, who wrote "separation between church and state", violated his own premise by praying for them, respecting them and esteeming their religious association as the President. Isn't he endorsing them, establishing an official religion?

Listen — those five words, "Separation Between Church and State" have become the basis for freedom FROM religion. No prayers in school functions, no Bibles allowed, no reports on Jesus Christ, no "under God" in pledge, no "In God We Trust" on money, no nativity scenes on government property, no crosses on government property, etc. That interpretation of those five words is a farce — nowhere near the original intent of a private, non-binding letter.

Interesting Facts

- **USA has had ONE form of government since 1776**
- 195 nations in world today — they average a revolution every 30-40 years, America hasn't, we're still the same, 243 years later
- *Stability isn't normal, America is exceptional in that sense.*

Are European forms of government better?

“The comparisons between our governments and those of Europe are like the comparisons of heaven and hell.”

~ *Thomas Jefferson*

What makes America unique and exceptional?

“The Bible is the rock upon which our Republic rests.”

~ *President Andrew Jackson*

Who were our founding fathers?

- **Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, Adams, Hancock... great, but who did they credit?**
- *Adams said* — **Rev. Dr. Mayhew, Rev. Dr. Cooper, Rev. Charles Chauncy, Rev. George Whitefield** to name a few... African American preachers: **Rev. Richard Allen, Rev. Absalom Jones, Rev. John Murrant, Rev. Lemuel Haynes.**

Declaration of Independence

- 27 grievances listed against King George
- honest historians say all 27 charges with their corresponding violated rights were preached from American pulpits prior to 1763.
- *The Declaration is nothing less than the compilations of sermons that had been preached in America from the preceding decade before the American Revolution started.*
- **29 of 56 signers of Declaration** — had seminary degrees. “*Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence*”¹ many signers were brilliant, accomplished, courageous, sold-out followers of Jesus Christ!
- **Charles Carroll** — signer of Declaration, last survivor of signers, heaven at 95, framer of Bill of Rights, “I am grateful to Almighty God for the blessings which, through Jesus Christ our Lord, He has conferred upon my beloved country.”²

¹ Benson John Loring, *Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Tales End Press, Aug 6, 2012)

² *ibid*

First Gathering of Continental Congress

- Sept. 5th, 1774, opened in prayer, some historians say it lasted three hours.
- John Adams said they also studied scripture; wrote to wife Abigail and said one passage really impacted them, Psalm 35, *victory over enemies*; read it and tell it to your friends and father (*pastor*).
- Also appointed a continental fast that day for all 3 million Americans —

“Millions will be upon their knees at once before their Creator,
imploping His forgiveness and blessings; His smiles on American councils and arms.”

~ John Adams

- That was the first of 15 proclamations during time of American Revolution; couple of months after fasting and prayer, it's time for proclamations of prayer and thanksgiving. 15 times during American Revolution it went back and forth between proclamations of humiliation, fasting and prayer to prayer and thanksgiving. WOW!

George Washington

- by 1778 they had seen such miraculous favor

“The hand of Providence has been so conspicuous in all this that he must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith, and more than wicked, that has not gratitude enough to acknowledge his obligations.”

~ George Washington

- In other words, if you can't see and acknowledge with gratitude all that God has clearly done for us, you are worse than an infidel and more than wicked. WOW!
- **Washington's first Inaugural speech, April 30th, 1789**
“...it would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official Act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the Universe, who presides in the Councils of Nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that his benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the People of the United States, a Government instituted by themselves for these essential purposes... No People can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand, which conducts the Affairs of men more than the People of the United States. Every step, by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation, seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency.”
- **George Washington's Farewell Address**
after 45 years public service, two terms as president, Father of Nation
“...of all the habits and dispositions that lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.”

In other words — religion and morality in politics are indispensable, without them, we're in political trouble... *next sentence...*

“In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars.”

- **Washington’s adopted daughter, Nelly Custis-Lewis, on his Christianity**

"Is it necessary that any one should certify, 'General Washington avowed himself to me a believer in Christianity?' As well may we question his patriotism, his heroic, disinterested devotion to his country. His mottos were, 'Deeds, not Words;' and, 'For God and my Country.'"

"I should have thought it the greatest heresy to doubt his firm belief in Christianity. His life, his writings, prove that he was a Christian. He was not one of those who act or pray, that they may be seen of men."³

~ Nelly Custis-Lewis

- **Washington’s prayers**

There are over one hundred different prayers composed and written by Washington in his own hand, with his own words, in his writings. Although he never once used the word "Deist" in his voluminous writings, he often mentioned religion, Christianity, and the Gospel. Speaking of his own religious life he used the words fervent, pious and devout.

1781 end of American Revolution

- Battle of Yorktown, British lay down their weapons, we are now totally free from English rule and law.
- Congress now prints the first English Bible in America, ready in 1782.
- Why did congress fund this Bible?
- Records of Congress say they wanted “a neat (pure) edition of the Holy Scriptures for the use of our schools.”

Ha! We went from congress printing and paying for Bibles for our schools to SCOTUS ruling 182 years later that school sanctioned prayers are unconstitutional, to now, no prayers at school graduations, games etc. We have fallen a looooooong waaaaaay!

- **Final Peace Treaty of 1783**

- signed by David Hartley, British Ambassador, Ben Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay
- written across top of Peace Treaty — “*In the Name of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity.*”

- **John Adams**

- One of three who signed BOTH Declaration and Peace Treaty said...
“The General Principles on which the Fathers achieved independence were the... general principles of Christianity.”

³ Jared Sparks, *The Life of George Washington* (F. Andrews, 1839) 522

- **Thomas Jefferson**

- Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer, 11 November 1779
“and above all, that he hath diffused the glorious light of the gospel, whereby, through the merits of our gracious Redeemer, we may become the heirs of his eternal glory... to beseech him that he would be graciously pleased to influence our public Councils, and bless them with wisdom from on high... that he would grant to his church, the plentiful effusions of divine grace, and pour out his holy spirit on all Ministers of the gospel; that he would bless and prosper the means of education, and spread the light of Christian knowledge through the remotest corners of the earth... That he would in mercy look down upon us, pardon all our sins, and receive us into his favor; and finally, that he would establish the independence of these United States upon the basis of religion and virtue, and support and protect them in the enjoyment of peace, liberty and safety.”

Separation between Church and State as it is applied today... ...I don't think so!

So, Mr. Reagan –

Religious people aren't intruding on a secular government – we've been here from the beginning.

Sir, your secularism has been intruding on our Christian-inspired government.

Your concept of Separation Between Church and State is a delusional lie – the Founding Father's life and work reproves you.

Lastly, you may not fear burning in hell now, but when you take one last look into the eyes of love that desired to save you, and you take that first step into a godless hell, your defiant mockery will then begin to painfully torment you for all eternity – I beg of you to be reconciled to Christ before it is too late.

Beloved – in light of all this, we must be a people who...

- understand that happy is the nation whose God is the Lord, Psalm 33:12
- prayers, and intercessions must be given for our government leaders, 1Timothy 2:1-2
- influence governmental leaders for the cause of righteousness like Joseph did with Pharaoh, Daniel did with five different ungodly kings, Nehemiah did with Artaxerxes, Jesus did with Pilot and Paul did with Cesare's household. This is our calling, this is our responsibility. God doesn't see separation between church and state as its applied today, let's make sure we don't either.
- I don't want a state religion, I just don't want history being re-written and taking my freedom of religion, and freedom *for* religion away by those who desire freedom *from* religion.

Dates:

Continental Congress 1774-81

Revolutionary War 1775-81

Articles of Confederation 1781-89

President Washington 1789-97

Discussion Questions

1. Before today, had you thought that the phrase “Separation between Church and State” was in the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, or Bill of Rights?
2. What role did Christianity play in the founding of the United States?
3. What has been the key component in making the American government stable for 243 years?
4. Were you surprised to hear that Congress funded the printing of the first English Bibles in America in 1782 to be distributed in schools?
5. In light of how far life in America has come away from the way our Founding Fathers created it, what must we as a people do?

NOTES