

Separation of Church & State

Vital in 1787 - Vital Now

a presentation of Congregation Beth Adam's
Social Justice Committee

What it is.

Why it matters.



What it is. Why it matters.

- ❖ **Origins**
- ❖ **Protecting & Upholding**
- ❖ **Dangerous Erosion**



King James II
English Catholic Monarch
1633-1701

“Divine Right of Kings”

- ❖ The King’s power comes from **God**.
- ❖ The King has **absolute** power.
- ❖ The King’s **authority cannot be questioned** or challenged.
- ❖ The King is **not accountable** to an earthly authority.

Founding Fathers Influenced by Enlightened Thinkers

Thomas Hobbes
English Philosopher
1588-1679



John Locke
English Philosopher
1632-1704



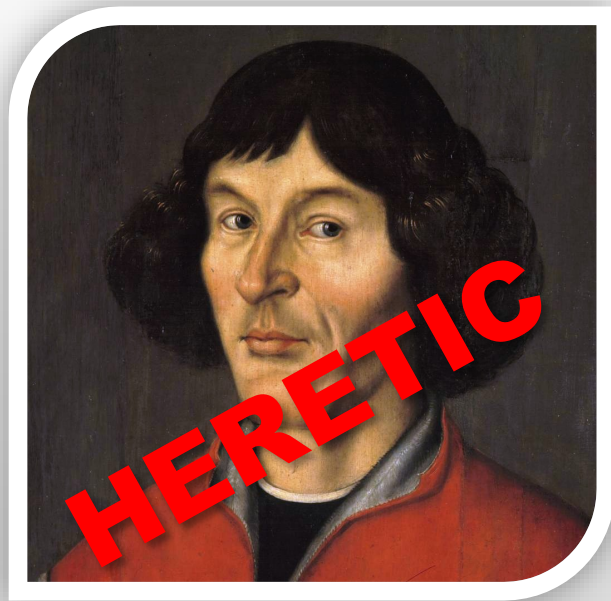
Montesquieu
French Judge
1689-1755



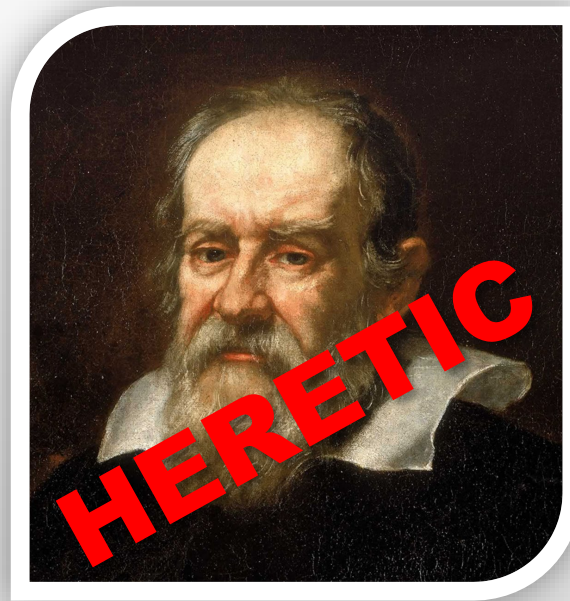
Baruch Spinoza
Dutch Philosopher (Jewish)
1632-1677

**RADICAL
&
DANGEROUS**

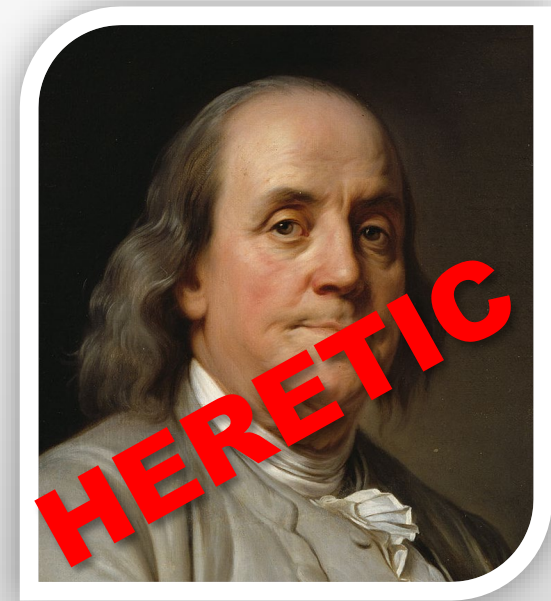
Founding Fathers also Influenced by Church's Denial of Science



Nicolaus Copernicus
Polish Mathematician
1473-1543



Galileo Galilei
Italian Astronomer
1564-1642



Benjamin Franklin
Founding Father
1706-1790

What it is.



**“We (our nation’s founders)
invented nothing except
disestablishment.”**

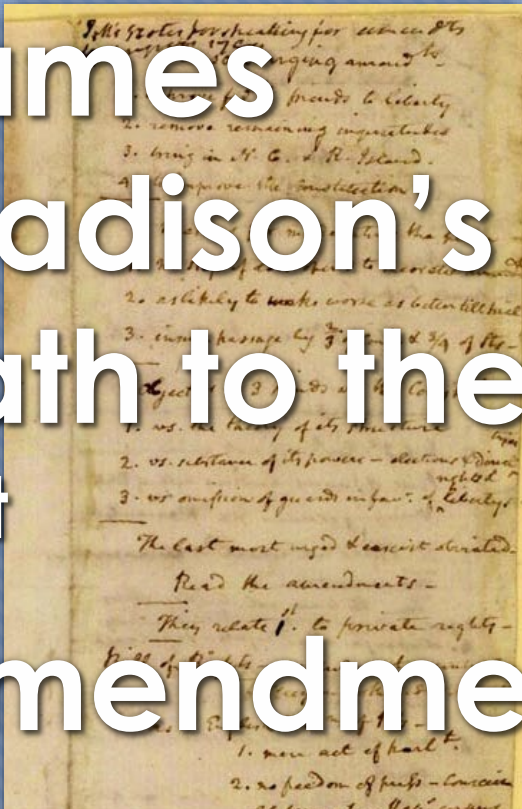
**No other government in history
had launched itself without the
help of officially recognized
gods and their state connected
ministers.”**

What it is.

*“Congress shall make
no law respecting an
establishment of
religion or prohibiting
the free exercise
thereof.”*

The founding fathers
wanted to prevent the few
from governing the many,
and the many from
persecuting and
destroying the few.

James Madison's Path to the 1st Amendment

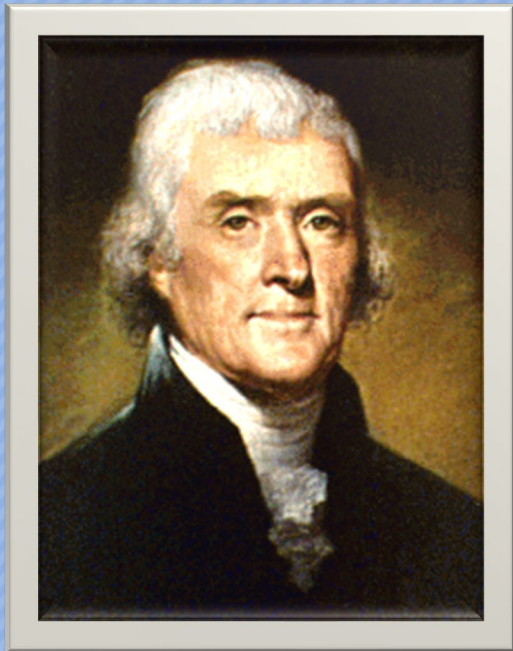


“The tendency of government and religion to mix and corrupt each other is so great that the danger cannot be too carefully guarded against.”

“Religion flourishes in greater purity, without, than with, the aid of government.”

Jefferson's Religious Freedom Bill

1786



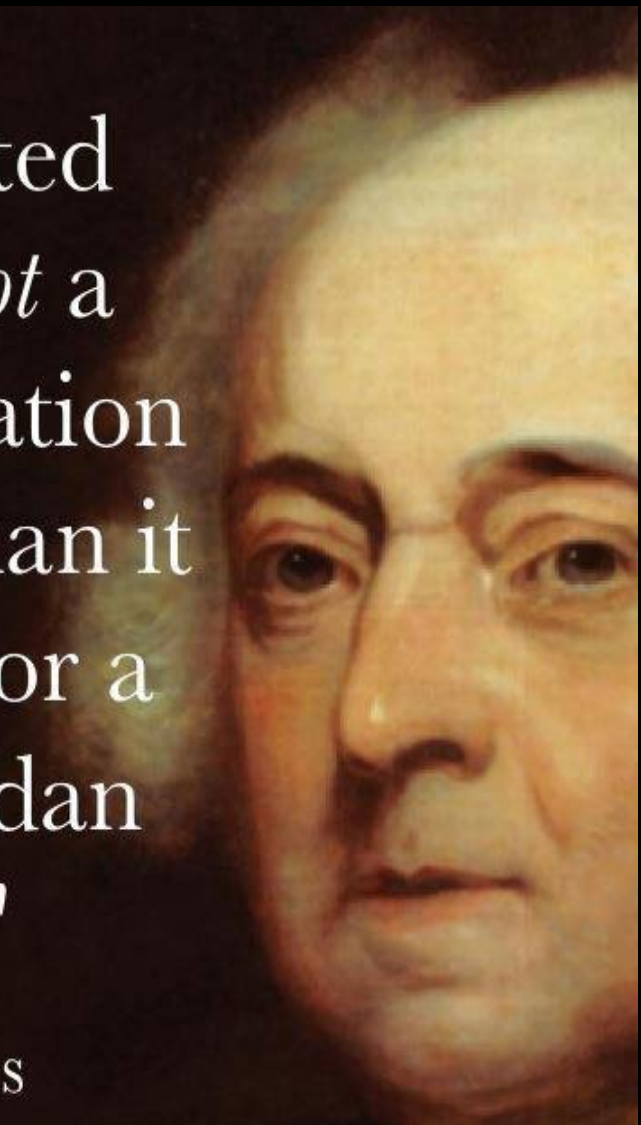
“I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, thus building a wall of separation between church and state.”

The Bill of Rights 1791
1st Amendment
“Establishment Clause”

To prevent
religious control
over government
and
political control
over religion.

"The United States *is not* a Christian nation any more than it is a Jewish or a Mohameddan nation."

John Adams



“There is no freedom of religion without a government that is free from religion.”

SEPARATION OF CHURCH & STATE

The Establishment
Clause:

*Guarantees freedom
from religion.*

The Free Exercise
Clause:

*Guarantees freedom
of religion.*

Freedom

FROM

Religion is:

**The freedom from
having religion
imposed.**

Freedom

OF

Religion is:

**The right to choose
what religion to follow
or not follow without
interference.**

**PROTECTING
and
PRESERVING
the 1ST
AMENDMENT**



**SIGNIFICANT
ACTIONS
that
ENFORCED
SEPARATION
of CHURCH &
STATE (SCS)**

**Early Historical Court Rulings
Enforcing the
“No Establishment Clause”.**

- ❖ **Abolished religious tests for public office**
- ❖ **Prohibited taxpayer funds from flowing to churches**
- ❖ **Guaranteed freedom of religion**

**SIGNIFICANT
ACTIONS
that
ENFORCED
SEPARATION
of CHURCH &
STATE**

**The following are
Mid 20th century
Supreme Court
rulings which upheld
the strict application
of Separation of
Church and State.**

**SIGNIFICANT
ACTIONS
that
ENFORCED
the
SEPARATION
of CHURCH &
STATE**

In **1947** in **Everson v. Board of Education**,
Supreme Court renders landmark opinion
that the Wall of Separation of Church and
State **must be kept high and impregnable.**



SUPREME COURT CASES INVOLVING *Prayer In Public Schools*

- ❖ In **1962**, SCOTUS determined it unconstitutional for a **state official to compose official school prayer and require its recitation in public schools.**
- ❖ Madalyn Murray O'Hair's **1963** lawsuit led to the **end of mandatory prayer in public schools** after SCOTUS declared it unconstitutional.
- ❖ In **1985** SCOTUS **disallowed school officials to direct "silent prayer" and meditation for the purpose of prayer in public schools.**

SUPREME COURT CASES INVOLVING *The Teaching of Evolution*

- ❖ In **1968**, SCOTUS ruled a state law making it **a crime "to teach or use a textbook, about the theory that mankind ascended or descended from a lower order"**, unconstitutional.
- ❖ SCOTUS ruled in **1987** that the Louisiana law **giving Creationism equal time was unconstitutional.**



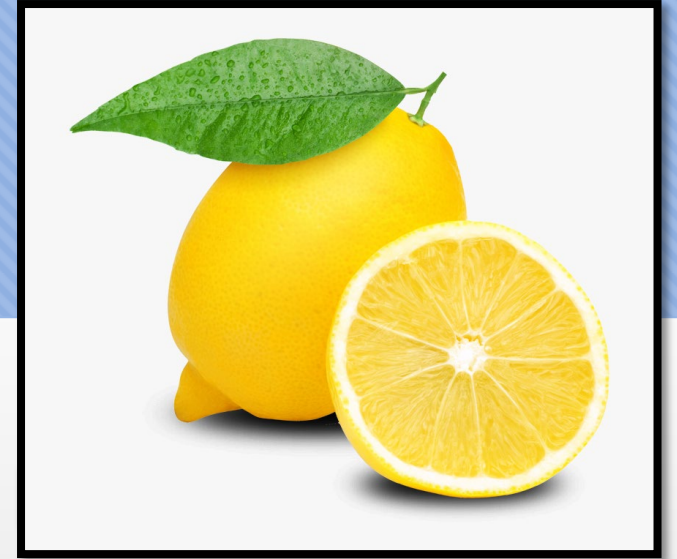
Debate between
Bill Nye The Science Guy &
Ken Ham of The Creation Museum



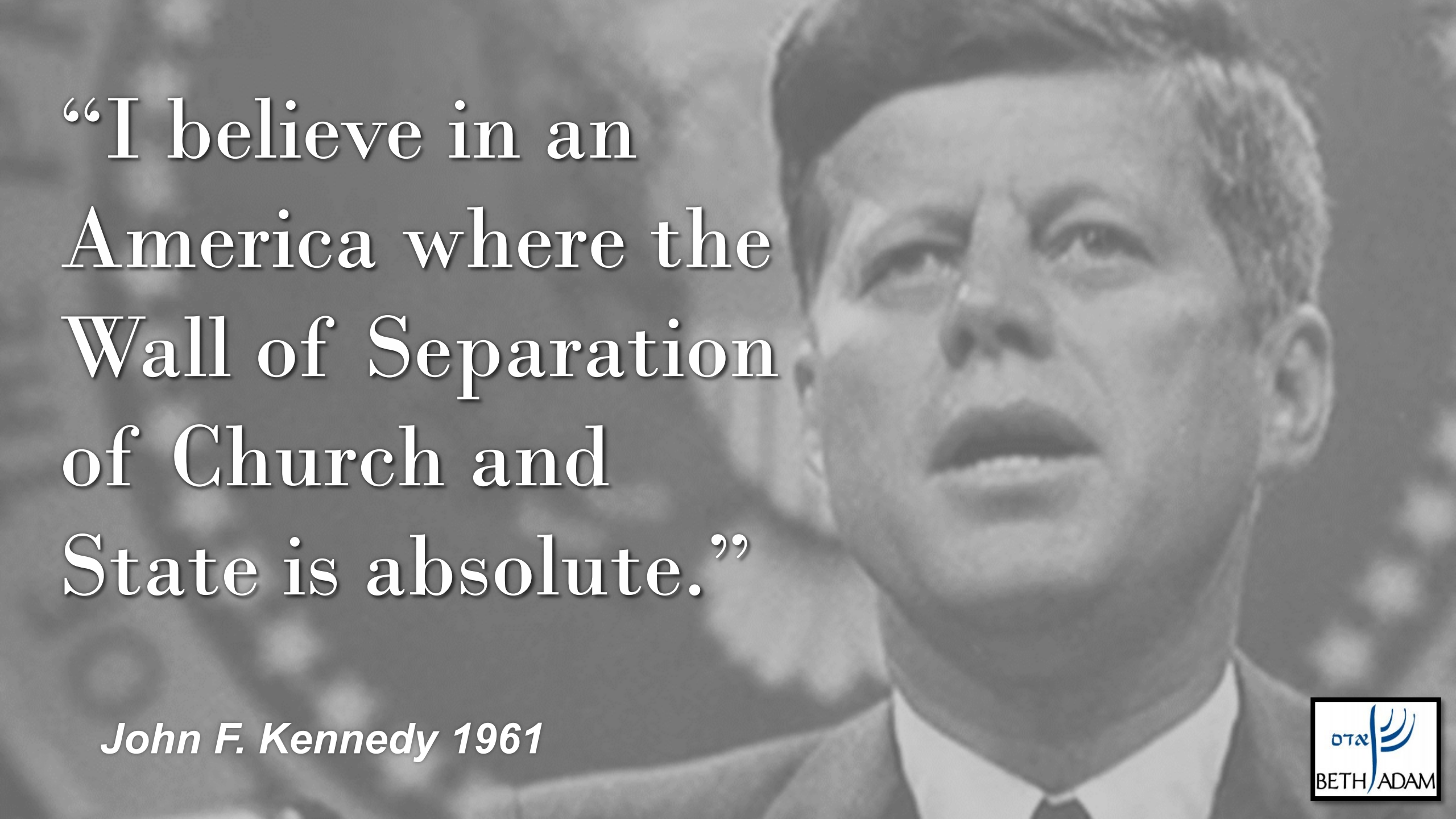
THE SUPREME COURT'S LEMON TEST

The **Lemon Test** was devised by the Supreme Court in **1971**, to determine whether governmental or other civil actions involving religion **complies with the Establishment Clause.**

THE SUPREME COURT'S LEMON TEST – 3 Criteria:



1. The statute must have a **secular purpose**.
2. The principal or primary effect of the statute must **neither advance nor inhibit** religion.
3. The statute must not result in **an "excessive government entanglement"** with religion.



“I believe in an
America where the
Wall of Separation
of Church and
State is absolute.”

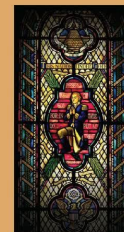
John F. Kennedy 1961

THE WALL CRUMBLES 1950-2020

Where we are now.



Congressional Prayer
Room



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Capitol_Prayer_Room_stained_glass_window.jpg

Infusion of Religious Symbolism



FREEDOM SUNDAY
AT FIRST BAPTIST DALLAS
JUNE 24
9:15 & 10:50AM

SPECIAL MESSAGE
"AMERICA IS A CHRISTIAN NATION"

DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS
SENIOR PASTOR

FIRSTDALLAS.ORG

OUTFRONT 2-2188

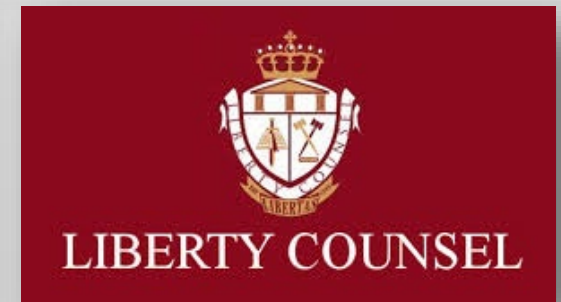


Influential Groups

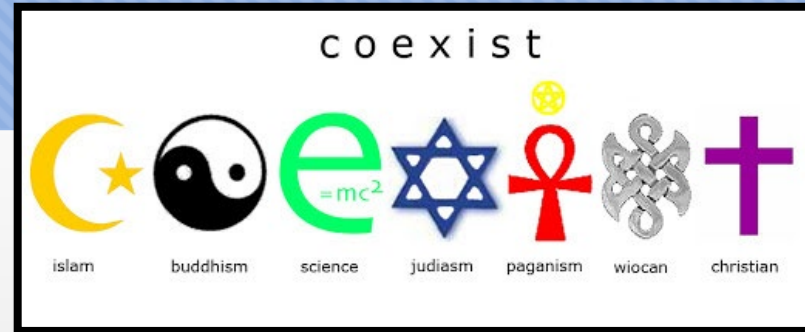
Breaking Down the Wall



- ❖ 1990, American Center for Law and Justice
- ❖ National Legal Foundation
- ❖ 2005, Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation
(2018, Project Blitz)
- ❖ Alliance Defending Freedom
- ❖ American Family Association
- ❖ American Prayer Caucus Network
- ❖ Citizens for Community Values – Ohio
- ❖ Liberty Council



Religious Freedom vs Religious Liberty



is the right for individuals or communities to practice the religion of their choice (or no religion) and prevents the cultural majority from using the power of the state to impose their beliefs on others.

weaponized to mean acting on one's religious beliefs even when it imposes on another's belief and can result in promoting religious privilege, superseding laws, including employee rights and consumer protection rules.

Religious Freedom vs Religious Liberty

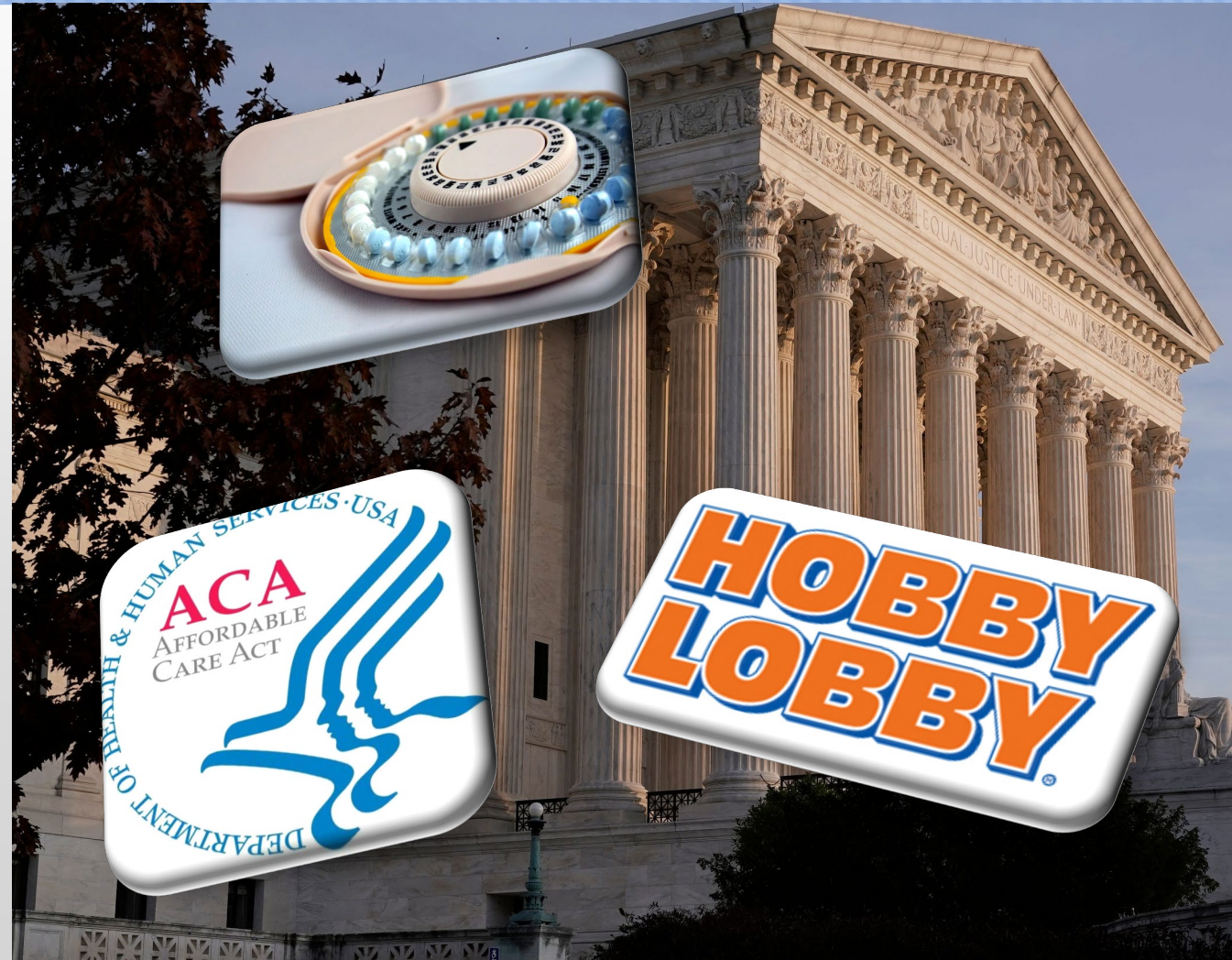
EXAMPLES

- ❖ Christians Against Christian Nationalism
- ❖ Legal protections as all other workers.
- ❖ Our nation has always understood religious freedom is a protection, not a political tool.
- ❖ The Muslim Ban
- ❖ Public schools to teaching biblical doctrine
- ❖ Display a 40-foot Latin cross on public property.
- ❖ January 6th, 2021 Insurrection

Current Events

Reflecting the Erosion of SCS

- ❖ **Covid-19 Pandemic**
- ❖ **Denial of Health Care Rule**
- ❖ **Denial of Health Benefits**



A woman with dark curly hair, wearing a blue sleeveless top, is leaning over a table in a library. She is looking at a book or a map. Three children are sitting around the table: a boy in a red and blue striped shirt, a girl in a blue shirt, and another girl in a light blue shirt. They are all looking at the materials on the table. The background shows bookshelves and other people in the library.

IMPACT ON EDUCATION

- ❖ **Good News Club**
- ❖ **Prayer & Bible Study in Public Schools**
- ❖ **Voucher Programs**

A vibrant rainbow flag is shown waving in the foreground, with a blurred background of a building's facade. The flag's colors are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. A semi-transparent blue box with a fine grid pattern is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the title and list.

IMPACT ON LGBTQ RIGHTS

- ❖ **Denial of Service**
- ❖ **Marriage Equality**
- ❖ **Transgender Rights**

Social Science Research Shows that:

- ❖ Government and Religion both flourish better when they are kept separate.
- ❖ Religion is not required for people to behave morally.
- ❖ The rule of law, in the form of an effective government, a fair judicial system and a reliable police force, is also a predictor of moral behavior, and is more in line with the beliefs of the Founding Fathers.

Why Separation of Church & State Matters

- ❖ **It promotes equality** because it is neutral on religion.
- ❖ **It unifies Americans** because religion can be divisive.
- ❖ **Our government has no religious authority & officials can't use the power of their offices to impose their own religion.**
- ❖ **Religion benefits from separation** (James Madison) so government can't corrupt religion.
- ❖ **It is a prerequisite** for true religious freedom to be implemented for everyone.

Want To Learn More?

Organizations that advocate for separation of church and state:

- Americans United – www.au.org
- Freedom From Religion Foundation – www.ffrf.org
- ACLU of Ohio – www.acluohio.org
- American Constitution Society – www.acslaw.org
- Christians Against Christian Nationalism – www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org

Recommended books:

- The Founding Myth: Why Christian Nationalism is Un-American, by Andrew Seidel
- The Good News Club, by Katherine Stewart
- The Power Worshippers, by Katherine Stewart

- 1. What surprised you the most?**
- 2. What suggestions do you have to strengthen Separation of Church & State?**

Congregation Beth Adam www.bethadam.org

