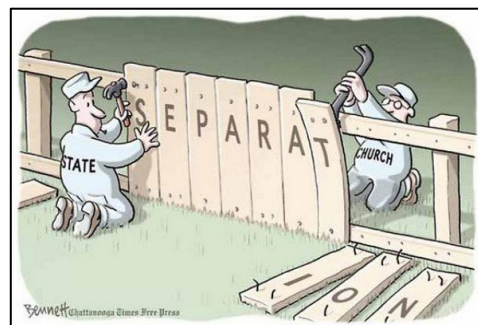


America's Christian Heritage by Doug Hamilton

Part V) The Separation of Church and State Myth

- The founding fathers came up with the 3 branches of government from Isaiah; They came up with the separation of powers from Jeremiah; They got the tax exempt status of the Church from Ezra.
- In the capital rotunda in the United States Congress, you will find eight oil paintings and four of them depicting Christian themes.
- If you walk up the steps of the Washington Monument, you will find scriptures from the Bible written on the steps.
- In the central portico of the Supreme Court, there stands a statue of Moses holding the Ten commandments.
- In the very place where they signed the Declaration of Independence, you will find the Liberty Bell. Inscribed on the front of the bell is Lev 25:10 "Proclaim liberty throughout the land and unto all the inhabitants thereof-".
- Every day since the beginning of our government, the Congress of the United States has opened with a prayer to God, asking for His blessings on the affairs of the day. Ironically, the congressional chaplains can open with prayer (Marsh vs. Chambers 1983), but it is unconstitutional for students to read these prayers in school (State Board of Education vs. Board of Education of Netcong 1970).

You might be saying "I don't agree with you preacher. I don't think you need to be preaching this from the pulpit, after all, it is separation of Church and state." I am glad you brought that up. If the politicians can talk about God and the church, then the church should be talking about God and where he fits in the politics. "Separation of church and State" is nothing more than a myth. It is written nowhere in any of the founding documents, not in the Declaration of Independence, not in the Constitution of the United States, not in the Amendments, not in the Federalists Papers, nowhere. Check it out for yourself, this is a fact.



The phrase "Separation of Church and State" is not found in these documents. It was found in the Russian constitution. In survey after survey, over two thirds of American people believe these words "separation of Church and State" are recorded in the founding documents, yet they are not. It is a myth, it is a bully-pulpit the God-haters propagate; it is a lie that has been fed to the American people by those who have a problem with subjecting to God.

Where did this saying come from? If it isn't true, why do we keep hearing so much about it in our classrooms and college campuses? In every society and every age, there have been people who hate God and His holy word, the Bible. This country is no exception to the rule. A couple of hundred years ago, God-haters began to quote Thomas Jefferson as having taught this.

Where is it come from? The quote however does not come from any of the founding documents, but a letter which Thomas Jefferson wrote in response to a group of irate Baptist from Danbury, Connecticut. The Baptist church in that town were concerned that the First

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Amendment's "free exercise" right was granted by the national government, rather than an unalienable right endowed by the Creator as Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." (Thomas Jefferson, Declaration of Independence 1776)



If our religion was a right granted by the government, the Baptists reasoned, the government could regulate or prohibit religious activity. Jefferson shared their concern and replied by letter on January 1, 1802:

Gentlemen:

*Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God; that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship; that the legislative powers of government reach actions only and 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 and State**. . . I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend to restore to man all his natural rights, convinced that he has no natural right in opposition to his social duties.*

President Thomas Jefferson

Jefferson was not saying it was a "separation between Church and State" from the viewpoint "freedom from religion", but "freedom for religion". He was explaining to this group concerning the apparent contradiction between the endowment of "unalienable Rights" from the Creator spoken of in the Declaration of Independence and the clause "make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," written in the first amendment of religious rights. They wanted Jefferson to be on record as to whether this meant our religious rights come from God or the government. Jefferson was the one who wrote the Declaration of Independence and he could give a good explanation of what he meant.

In context, Jefferson's response was quite simple, the government recognizes that the religious rights come from God and is bound by law not to interfere in the affairs of the Church. The government thus has a "wall of separation between church and State"; it will not mess with nor regulate the state citizen's right to worship God. There will be no state regulated Church, the government will not stand in the way of the Church. This quote was not in the founding documents, but a personal letter. Jefferson was not even in this country when the constitution and the First Amendment were ratified, being an ambassador in France. The humanist likes to quote

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Jefferson because everyone who was there said too many things to indicate this nation was founded on Biblical teachings.

This is what psychologists call “selective desensitization”. This is the result of people saying something often enough and long enough until it becomes true in the minds of the masses. It is the same strategy Adolph Hitler used in the 1930s to brainwash an entire nation to accept Nazism. Stalin used selective desensitization to force communism on Russia. It is the same method which the devil does with us. He exposes us to a lie over and over again until we accept it as true.

We saw in the last lesson concerning the Supreme Court cases which came about when God-haters tried with no avail to push God out of the affairs of the government. They used that phrase over and over again to no avail. Time and time again, the Supreme Court denied this phrase as unconstitutional. Then in 1962 (*Engel vs. Vitale*) and 1963 (*School District of Abington Township vs. Schemp*), without sighting a single historical landmark decision or precedent, the liberal Supreme Court pulled the phrase “*Separation of Church and State*” from of the Danbury Baptist letter of Jefferson and pushed God, prayer and the Bible out of the public schools. We officially went on record as a nation saying that God does not matter. The 1964 World Book Encyclopedia states America “*knew nothing of separation of Church and State until 1962*”.

If the Court did not cite any prior cases, what did they use to carry out this decision? In the first case, *Engel vs. Vitale*, a New York Education board wrote a prayer they wanted spoken every morning in the schools. The prayer said, “*Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence on Thee, we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers and our country.*” It was generic, non-denominational and simple. If a parent did not want their children participating in it, they could simply write a note to excuse them from this brief moment. Ten parents who had a problem with God also had a problem with this prayer. They filed a lawsuit against the school district and it landed in the Supreme Court. The court said because the prayer was written by a government body, this is the same as the government starting an “*official religion*”, something that violated the First Amendment.

Two of the justices did not vote and another issued a stinging dissent. The latter, Justice Stewart, cited numerous accounts of similar events without the same conclusion. He reminded them that the Supreme Court starts each session with the cry “God save the United States and this Honorable Court”. The Star Spangled Banner, the national anthem since 1931, has God's name written all over it. Our Congress enacted the National Day of Prayer in 1952. Our coins have carried the words “In God We Trust” since 1865. All these did not start a scare of an “official religion”, why would this be any different? Yet, that is what the courts did. They rejected centuries of tradition on the basis of Humanist thinking.

In the second case, (*School District of Abington Township vs. Schemp 1963*), the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania required the reading of at least ten Bible verses at the start of every school day. The Schemp family had a problem with this and filed suit against the school district. At the same time, there was an angry woman named Madeline Murray that joined her case to Schemp's. She had a big problem with God. The man she was intimate with



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would not marry her. He said it was against his religion to divorce his wife and marry another. She despised anything to do with the Bible and God. One day, she went into the school where her young son Billy attended and heard scriptures being read. She also filed a lawsuit.

The court ignored nearly 200 years of precedent and used the testimony of a psychologist. The psychologist said that a child might hear some of these verses in the Bible and be offended. The same liberal Supreme Court which threw out prayer the year before, now threw out the Bible from the same institution. (Note: both cases are discussed in detail in *The Constitution & Religion* by Robert Alley, Prometheus Books, Amhurst NY, 1999)

Psalm 14:1 states, "*The fool has said in his heart, There is no God.*" When we drove God out of the classrooms of our youth, we became a nation of fools in the eyes of the Lord. Since those decisions in 1962/63, the values in this country have spiraled down further and further every year. All the statistics show the divorce rate, crime rate, child abuse rates, pre-marital sex rates and a thousand other things sky rocket up. If there is no God, if we come from nothing and we go to nothing, then life does not matter. If there is nothing more than this, then *1 Corinthians 15:32* "*what does it profit me? If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.*" If we have no perspective of heaven and eternity, if this is all we have, we had better make sure we live to its fullest. This is how sin is taking over our nation.

Here are some other lies that have branched off of this same "selective desensitization" and "Separation of Church and State". Lies breed lies.

1) An unborn child is not a living being.

Since 1973, we have killed 45 million unborn children in our country. We do this based on the Roe vs. Wade decision of 1973. It was then that we were told that an unborn child is not a child and henceforth, does not have rights. What a lie. God deeply loves unborn children.



- Jeremiah 1:5, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations."
- Luke 1:41, And it came about that when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Ps 127:3, Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.
- Ps 139:13, For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

However, the government does not care what the Bible says when it comes to making policy. When God is factored out of law and selective desensitization is factored in, we do what is an abomination in the Lord's eyes and 60 million lives snuffed out of the womb before they ever had a chance to breath.

2) You cannot legislate morality.

We legislate morality every single day in this country. When you come to a stop sign in the road, do you stop? When you see something you would like to have, do you just take it?

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When you are angry with someone, do you just go up and hit them? Of course not. We have laws called traffic, theft and assault that say you don't. That is called legislated morality. We either use the morality of God or some replacement. As David said when facing this same decision in 2 Samuel 24:14, "And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man."

We think if we avoid God in our law, we can get off the hook concerning punishment. Our country is on a path to adopt Humanistic rule in hope of avoiding the natural consequences of our actions. Ecclesiastes 8:11, *Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.*

3) Homosexuality is biologically normal.

If you asked Americans 50 years ago if homosexuality was normal, you would not have found much support. Every state in the union from the 1940s had laws against the practice of homosexuality. Many still have these laws on their books today. Thomas Jefferson, the founding father the liberals quote most often, proposed castration for the act of sodomy. (Thomas Jefferson. Notes on the State of Virginia. Philadelphia, PA. Carey, Matthew. 1794. page 211). Notice the same liberals do not want to quote Jefferson in this way. Yet today, it is presented to society as normal. This has occurred through selective-desensitization. They have been saying it is normal, it is biological, and it must be accepted. By saying it long enough and often enough, they have desensitized the nation into a lie. All the research indicates that it is behavior, not genetics, yet the nation is embracing it with both arms.



Gallup:

In your view, is homosexuality something a person is born with or is homosexuality due to other factors such as upbringing or environment?

	Born	Environment
1999	34%	44%
1996	31	40
1989	19	48
1982	17	52
1977	13	56

Do you feel that homosexuality should be considered an acceptable alternative lifestyle or not?

	Acceptable	Not Acceptable
1999	50%	46%
1997	42	52
1996	44	50
1992	38	57
1982	34	51

The Founding Fathers knew there was more to this life than what we see. They acknowledged the words of the Bible as true moral standards and guides. They wanted the blessings of God, not the curses of God. Instead, we have taken God out of our lives and left a

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society of moral decay. We want to claim our rights because this is all we think we have. There is nothing to hold us in check if there is no God. There is no "*Separation of Church and State*". It is a lie, a bully pulpit, a godless doctrine and the devil's tool.

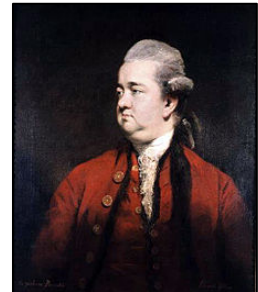
I have good news. One poll shows us there is still a strong belief in God.
(Gallup POLL RELEASES December 24, 1999 Americans Remain Very Religious, but Not Necessarily in Conventional Ways)

- Almost nine out of 10 Americans (86%) say that they believe in God, even when given the choice of saying that they "don't believe in God, but believe in a universal spirit or higher power" (chosen by only eight percent). In fact, only five percent of the population choose neither of these choices and thus claim a more straightforward atheistic position.
- When given a choice between saying "religion can answer all or most of today's problems," or that "religion is largely old-fashioned and out of date," 68% of Americans choose the former, while only 19% choose the "old-fashioned" response. This breakout has stayed roughly the same for over 25 years.
- Seventy-nine percent of Americans say they agree with the statement "there will be a day when God judges whether you go to heaven or hell."

There is still hope for this nation. We still have a majority who have at least some reverence and respect for the Bible. We must capitalize on this. We must reach out to them before they lose this. This is our Christian duty and our civil duty. We must live like a Christian. We must preach the gospel of Christ. We must pray for the nation and the nation's rulers. We must vote like a Christian on the issues of value and stop voting our pocketbook.

Edward Gibbon, author of *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, has attributed the fall of the Empire to:

1. The rapid increase of divorce; the undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society.
2. Higher and higher taxes and the spending of public monies for free bread and circuses for the populace.
3. The mad craze for pleasure; sports becoming every year more exciting and more brutal.
4. The building of gigantic armaments when the real enemy was within, the decadence of the people.
5. The decay of religion -- faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life and becoming impotent to warn and guide the people.



(Edward Gibbon, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*.)

Joshua 24:14-15, "Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."