

WHAT? THE BIBLE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS?!

What about the Constitution and the “separation of church and state”?

Let me be perfectly clear at the outset...

There is absolutely nothing in the U.S. Constitution that articulates, supports, or is in defense of the concept of the “separation of church and state.”

This “separation,” however, does appear in one Constitution:

Article 124 of the Constitution of the old U.S.S.R. (1922-1991)...
“...the church in the U.S.S.R. is separated from the State and the school from the church.”

The phrase “separation of church and state” used by anti-prayer, anti-Bible, and anti-God forces to erode our Constitutional liberties, comes not from the Constitution, but from a letter written by then-President Thomas Jefferson to a group of Baptist ministers in Danbury, CT. Furthermore, it means the exact **opposite** of what the anti-God forces infer today.

At the time of our founding, these pastors were concerned that the Baptist religion (then a small denomination) would be infringed upon by the establishment of a “State Church,” as was the case in England.

President Jefferson reassured them thusly:

“To messers. Nehemiah Dodge, Ephraim Robbins, & Stephen S. Nelson, a committee of the Danbury Baptist association in the state of Connecticut...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...” (emphasis added)

Th Jefferson Jan. 1. 1802

Clearly, the "wall of separation" was/is to keep the state out of the church - not vice versa.

While I am not an attorney, it seems clear to me the moment someone invokes the "establishment clause" (so called), they immediately violate the "free exercise clause." Furthermore, as I read the amendment, it seems to me it says "**Congress** shall make no law..." - not local school boards and/or judges, etc.

As further proof that the First Amendment is NOT to keep people from the free exercise of religion, consider this quote submitted to the Congress by Congressman Fisher Ames:

"Congress shall make no law establishing religion, or to prevent the free exercise thereof, or to infringe the rights of conscience."

That you will recognize as essentially the wording of the First Amendment to the Constitution, submitted (by Ames) in, and adopted by, the U.S. House during the First Session of the U.S. Congress on August 20, 1780.

(Annals of the Congress of the United States - First Congress (Washington, D.C.: Gales & Seaton, 1834), Vol. I, p. 766.)

Fisher Ames stated:

"Should not the Bible regain the place it once held as a schoolbook? Its morals are pure, its examples are captivating and noble....

The reverence for the sacred book that is thus early impressed lasts long; and, probably, if not impressed in infancy, never takes firm hold of the mind....

In no Book is there so good English, so pure and so elegant, and by teaching all the same they will speak alike, and the Bible will justly remain the standard of language as well as of faith."

On September 20, 1789, in an article published in the Palladium magazine, Fisher Ames further stated:

"We have a dangerous trend beginning to take place in our education. We're starting to put more and more textbooks into our schools....

We've become accustomed of late of putting little books into the hands of children containing fables and moral lessons....

*We are spending less time in the classroom on the Bible, which should be the principal text in our schools....
The Bible states these great moral lessons better than any other manmade book."*

It is manifestly obvious from the foregoing that the Founding Fathers and the U.S. Congress clearly understood that no conflict existed between one's religious faith and the liberties outlined in the American Constitution.

Let this be clearly understood; as the Supreme Court has also ruled in *Abington v. Schempp*, in the USA there is absolutely no legal impediment to teaching the Bible as history and literature in the American public school systems.

As you consider the question as to the yes or no of the Bible in our public school systems, consider this thought on education:

"Education is a weapon, whose effect depends on who holds it in his hands and at whom it is aimed."

That was from Joseph Stalin, who had this to say about America...

"America is like a healthy body and its resistance is threefold: its patriotism, its morality, and its spiritual life. If we can undermine these three areas, America will collapse from within."

Let me ask you... what is clearly the underlying foundation of two (if not all of three) of those critical areas – *morality* and *spiritual life*, if not the Bible?

Does that sound suspiciously like some areas now under continuous attack by certain "enlightened" or "liberal" groups in our country today?

THE BIBLE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS TODAY?

I join the Founding Fathers with a resounding "YES!"

... and you say?