

## “The Coping Christian in One Nation Under Satan”

by Doug Hamilton

### IV) The Separation of Church and State Myth.

There are some people in our pews and religious circles that might be saying, “I don’t like you preaching about anything concerning the government. Haven’t you heard there is a “Separation of Church and state?” We hear this statement being propagated by our media, our politicians, our professors and a large portion of the culture, yet we do not find it in the founding documents. It is nothing more than a myth and a bully pulpit for the ungodly. It is not found in the Declaration of Independence, not in the Constitution of the United States, not in the Amendments, not in the Federalists Papers, nowhere.

The phrase “Separation of Church and State” is not found in our original documents, yet we find it mentioned among our people. In survey after survey, over two thirds of American people believe these words “separation of Church and State” is a recorded fact. It is a myth, nothing more than a bully pulpit for the godless and ignorant to 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 it come from? The reference does not come from any of the founding documents, but is letter Jefferson wrote in response to a group of irate Baptists from Danbury, Connecticut. In other words, the Baptists were concerned that the First Amendment's "free exercise" clause 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)

The Baptists reasoned that if religion was a right granted by the government, then the government could regulate or prohibit religious activity in the marketplace. 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

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Jefferson was not saying “*separation between Church and State*” was “freedom from religion”, but “freedom for religion”. He explained the group of Baptists concerning the apparent contradiction. The endowment of “unalienable Rights” from the Creator was in harmony with the clause from the First Amendment of the Constitution to “*make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof*”. They wanted Jefferson on the record concerning their freedom of religion. They figured since Jefferson wrote the very words of the Declaration that he could also give a good explanation of what he meant.

How can so many people be fooled into thinking this personal letter means a secular society? This is what psychologists call “selective desensitization”. It is when someone will say something often enough and long enough that it becomes accepted as fact. Ironically this is the same strategy that Adolph Hitler used in the 1930s to brainwash an entire nation to accept Nazism. It is also the same strategy Stalin used to force communism on Russia.

Lies are the same method which the devil uses with us and has been doing it since the beginning (1 John 3:8). He is “*the god of this world*” (2 Corinthians 4:4), the “*prince and power of the air*” (Ephesians 2:2) and the “*father of lies*” (John 8:44), setting his heart to “*steal, kill and destroy*” (John 10:10) all souls who seek to follow the truth. He exposes us to lies like “separation of church and state” by deceiving us through a repeated lie through the mouths of men. Since the beginning of our nation, we have been inundated with a plethora of attacks under the falsehood of “separation of church and state”.

### Early Supreme Court Justices

Do you still believe that we have a “separation of church and state” principle baked into the history of our nation? A brief look at the early Supreme Court Justices might convince you otherwise.

John Jay -First Chief Justice of the Supreme Court appointed by Washington, one of only three men to give us the Constitution.

- “*Providence has given to our people the choice of our rulers; and it is the duty as well as the privilege of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.*”
- “*The Americans are the first people whom Heaven has favored with an opportunity of deliberating upon and choosing the forms of government under which they should live.*” (Jay, *Correspondence*, Vol 1. pg 161 from his “Charge to the Grand Jury of Ulster County” on Sept 9th, 1777)
- “*Only one adequate plan has ever appeared in the world, and that is the Christian dispensation.*” (<http://www.christianparents.com/jdewey.htm>)

Gabriel Duvall -Supreme Court Justice appointed by Madison

- “*I resign my soul into the hands of the Almighty who gave it in humble hopes of His mercy through our Savior Jesus Christ.*” (Original Intent, David Barton, pg 134, Wallbuilder Press, Aledo, TX 1997)

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Oliver Ellsworth - Supreme Court Justice appointed by Washington, Member of the Continental Congress

- *“The primary objects of government peace, order and prosperity of society....To the promotion of these objects, particularly in a republican government good morals are essential. Institutions for the promotion of good morals are therefore objects of legislative provision and support: and among these...religious institutions are eminently useful and important.”*(Original Intent, David Barton, pg 321, Wallbuilder Press, Aledo,TX 1997)

William Patterson -Supreme Court Justice appointed by Washington

- *“Religion and morality...{are} necessary to good government, good order, and good laws.”* (Maeva Marcus. The Documentary History of the Supreme Court of the United States 1789-1800. New York: Columbia University Press. 1988. Vol III pg 436)

James Wilson -Supreme Court Justice appointed by Washington, co-authored the first commentaries on the Constitution

- *“Human law must rest its authority ultimately upon the authority of that law which is divine....Far from being rivals or enemies, religion and law are twin sisters, friends, and mutual assistants. Indeed, these two sciences run into each other.”*(Original Intent, David Barton, pg 324, Wallbuilder Press, Aledo,TX 1997)

Joseph Story -Supreme Court Justice appointed by Madison

- *“The Bible itself is the common inheritance, not merely of Christendom, but of the world.”* (Joseph Story, *A Familiar Exposition of the Constitution of the United States*, New York: Harper and Brothers 1854, pg 259)

Elias Boudinot -Supreme Court Justice appointed by Washington

- *“Let us enter on this important business under the idea that we are Christians on whom the eyes of the world are now turned...Let us earnestly call and beseech him for Christ’s sake to preside in our councils.”* (The Life, Public Services, Addresses and Letters of Elias Boudinot, Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Co., 1896, Vol I, pg 19)

Because they were godly men, they defended God and the integrity of our national morality. A simple review of their early decisions reflect this well.

The Supreme Court Held the Secularists in Check.

- *Thomas M’Creery’ Lese vs Allender (1799)* There was a man that emigrated from Ireland by the name Thomas M’Creery,. When he died, he willed his estate to a relative in Ireland. There was a dispute to whether M’Creery was a citizen of the United States. It

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went before the Maryland Supreme Court. Judge Samuel Chase, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, ruled “*I, Samuel Chase, Chief Judge of the State of Maryland, do hereby certify all whom it may concern that... personally appeared before me Thomas M’Creery and did repeat and subscribe a declaration of his belief in the Christian Religion and take the oath required by the Act of Assembly of this State entitled ‘The Act of Naturalization’*”. (M’Creery’s Lessee vs Allender; 4 Harris & McHenry 256, 288; Sup. Ct. Maryland 1799)

- *Runkel vs Winemiller (1799)* There was a dispute between a minister and his former church. The Maryland Supreme Court ruled “*By our form of government, the Christian religion is the established religion; and all sects and denominations of Christians are placed upon the same equal footing and are equally entitled to protection in their religious liberty.*” (Original Intent, David Barton, pg 62, Wallbuilder Press, Aledo, TX 1997)
- *The People vs Ruggles (1811)* A man decided to curse God and Christ. He was convicted in a New York Court and ordered to pay a \$500 fine. The case was appealed and it went before the New York Supreme Court. They ruled “*We are a people whose manners... and whose morals have been elevated and inspired... by means of the Christian religion. To construe it [the constitution] as breaking down the common law barriers against licentious, wanton and impious attacks upon Christianity itself, would be an enormous perversion of its meaning.*” (People vs Ruggles; 8 Johns 545; Sup Ct. NY; 1811)
- *The Commonwealth vs Sharpless (1815)* Jesse Sharpless was brought up on charges for displaying pornography art at his home in Pennsylvania. The United States Supreme Court convicted him stating “*No man is permitted to corrupt the morals of the people; secret poison cannot be thus disseminated.*” (Original Intent, David Barton, pg 64, Wallbuilder Press, Aledo, TX 1997)
- *Updegraph vs The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (1824)* A man named Abner Updegraph decided to publicly insult the Bible as a book of lies and the government took him to trial. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled “*Christianity, general Christianity, is and always has been a part of the common law... not Christianity founded on any particular tenets; not Christianity with an established church... but Christianity with liberty of conscience to all men.*” (Original Intent, David Barton, pg 55, Wallbuilder Press, Aledo, TX 1997)
- *The Commonwealth vs Abner Kneeland (1836)* Abner Kneeland, a pantheist, decided to print negative information about Jesus Christ and send it around Massachusetts for people to read. He thought he could do this under the umbrella of “Freedom of the Press” The State Supreme Court tried the case and upheld the conviction of libel for the attack on Christianity. (The Commonwealth vs. Abner Kneeland; 37 Mass; Sup. Ct.; 1838)
- *Davis vs Beason (1889)* A Mormon named Samuel Davis was convicted and sentenced for the crime of polygamy. He tried to use the excuse he was doing this in the name of Christianity. The United States Supreme Court rejected the argument on the basis that his

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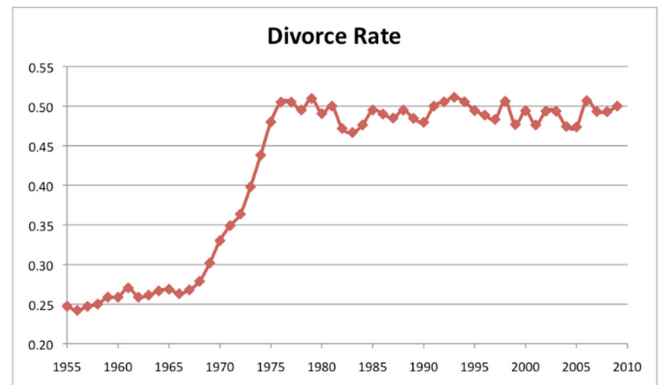
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behavior was a crime by the “*laws of...Christian countries.*” (Original Intent, David Barton, pg 65, Wallbuilder Press, Aledo, TX 1997)

- *Church of the Holy Trinity vs United States (1892)* The Supreme Court reviewed an immigration law of a Church that hired a preacher from Scotland. This violated the federal Alien Contract Labor Law of 1885. The federal government was denying the church to hire a minister. When the Supreme Court ruled, Justice David Josiah Brewer cited 87 historical precedents and concluded “*No purpose of action against religion can be imputed to any legislation, State or national, because this is a religious people....This is a religious nation.*” (Church of the Holy Trinity v US; 143 US 457,458 1892)
- *United States vs Macintosh (1931)* A Baptist minister seeking naturalization refuses to take the oath to bear arms in the military. He was denied citizenship against his religious conviction. When the court ruled, Justice George Sutherland reiterated the 1892 Holy Trinity decision by saying, “*We are a Christian people... according to one another the equal right of religious freedom and acknowledging with reverence the duty of obedience to the will of God.*” (United States vs Macintosh; 283 US 605,625 1931)
- *Zorach vs Clauson (1952)* A New York public school was releasing students for religious exercise. Some in the nation did not like this, so they took them to court. The Supreme Court ruled 6-3 to uphold the decision. They said, “*We are a religious people whose institutions presuppose a Supreme Being*” (Original Intent, David Barton, pg 73, Wallbuilder Press, Aledo, TX 1997)

Time and time again, the Supreme Court Justices proclaimed that we are religious nation and a religious people. This is because they held to their convictions of Christianity. Then in 1962 (Engel v. Vitale), without citing a single precedent, the Supreme Court ruled that school sponsored prayer was unconstitutional. In 1963 (Abington School District v. Schempp), the Supreme Court, citing the prior case from the previous year, ruled that the Bible in a school was unconstitutional. The 1964 World Book Encyclopedia states America “*knew nothing of separation of Church and State until 1962*”. During that time we became a nation of fools (Psalm 14:1).

Since that moment in history, things have utterly fallen apart at the seams. For fifteen years prior to this decision, the divorce rate dropped every single year. For the next fifteen years it tripled. The teenage pregnancy rate is up 485%, violent crime up 935%, sexually transmitted disease up 541%, single-parent households up 800%, child abuse up 483%, and the SAT scores have plummeted to all-time lows. They have actually had to dumb down the SATs in order to adjust. Jesus said in *Matt 7:17* “*Likewise every good tree bears good*



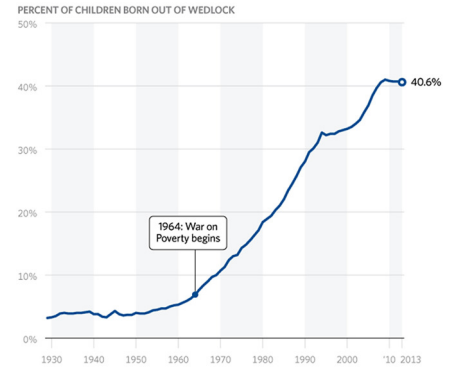
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*fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.*” We can definitely see that rejecting God on a national level has not been bearing the fruit of a winner.

This is supposed to be a republic, but what we have today is an oligarchy, rule by an elite counsel of a few. We call it the Supreme Court. They have used their ungodly power to re-interpret the laws and to re-write morality.

Make no mistake, when we have gone that far, there is no turning back. When the nation is so blind as to “*not know the difference between their right and left hand*” (Jonah 4:11), the nation will fall. The Greeks learned this lesson; the Romans did as well. Are the sins of Americans more sanitized in the eyes of the Father? I think not!



Application:

1 Timothy 2:1-6 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup> This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony *given* at the proper time.

**PRAY! PRAY! PRAY** for our leaders every day. Pray that our leaders will stop being followers of crowds and become leaders of righteousness. Pray that our goal to evangelize the world will not be hindered. Pray that we will not be hindered in our worship to God in America. Pray that we will stop falling for the “Separation of Church and State” myth!

# PRAY!