

EDUCATION PROHIBITED BY RELIGIOUS DEFINITION

The Bible Defies Constitutional Religion Clause

The Christian Institute of Public Theology

The nebulous definitions, meanings and connotations of religion as used in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, arbitrarily, mischaracterizes the Bible as a part of the nebulous meaning of religion; and subsequently prohibits the unique, inexhaustible, educational, cultural, historical, social, legal and theological values of the Bible. The Bible is not ordinary, general or nebulous in its description. The Bible is not synonymous with religion as presumed in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution's "religion establishment clause."

The Bible is a distinct, unique and specific historical, legal, ethical, theological composition of sixty-six specifically named books; combining the Old and New Testament Eras of Jewish History. It covers the whole spectrum of life from Genesis to Revelation in the New Testament. The Old Testament contains 39 books; five books of law; twelve books of history; five books of wisdom and poetry; five books of major prophets; twelve books of minor prophets. The New Testament contains 27 books: four books of Gospels, one book of history, twenty one letters, and one book of Revelation.

It must be acknowledged that the Bible is not a book of sectarianism, cultism or any ism that is less than monotheism. It is not a book of fiction or mythology or perceptual creations of the imagination. The Bible is a unique historical book that reveals and represents historically, one monotheistic God, one humanity, one Savior. It teaches exclusively of the existence of one omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, infinite, immortal and eternal God. The Bible teaches further that the worship of any entity or being less than God is idolatry. There is only one God with the capital G according to the Bible. The polytheistic gods with the small g are idols and are not the monotheistic God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This God resurrected Jesus Christ from the dead. The Bible teaches against religious idolatry. The God of the Bible is the God of love and truth.

DEFINITIONS OF RELIGIONS:

The World Book Dictionary (1998, World Book, Inc) provides four credible definitions of religion as follows: (1) Belief in God or gods. (2) Worship of God or gods. (3) A particular system of religious belief. (4) Anything done or followed with reverence and devotion. These described academic and professional definitions of religion from the World Book Dictionary illustrate the expansive, general and broad definitions of religion. These general and nebulous definitions of religion clearly raise the question as to how can the specificity of the Bible and its criticisms of idolatry and dishonesty be considered as any part of a false and idolatrous religion. The Bible is not synonymous with God. It is not a book to be worshipped. It is not a being that worships. It is not a being that follows. The Bible is not a being that devotes or reveres. The Bible is not a religion. It is a book of history, knowledge, education, truth, God's love, historical acts and instructions for the salvation of mankind.

THE NATURE OF RELIGION MERITS SERIOUS STUDY:

The four definitions of religion by World Book Dictionary are connected and related to personal and individual beliefs, worship, reverence preferences and devotions by individual decisions and choices from a universe of things, objects and beings. The core meaning of religion seems to reside in the personal feelings, belief systems and choices of the respective individuals or groups. Based on the limited information provided, a rational analysis must conclude that the Bible is not a religion. Contrarily, anything can be considered religious. Therefore, the government cannot be isolated from the definition and concept of religion. Based on the nebulous definition of religion, the U. S. Constitution and the American Government, itself, could be considered a religion.

The Bible, itself, proclaims that the worship of anything less than God is idolatry. Human beings adore, reverence and worship a variety of things, objects and beings. Religion appears to originate and reside in the minds, hearts, spirits, souls and the will of individuals and groups as they focus on objects of devotion, reverence and worship. These objects, things or beings are not necessarily specifically limited or defined. The conglomerate complexities of religion and the associated consequences must not be taken lightly. Serious attention is Needed.

REVISITING THE RELIGION ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE:

The Religion Establishment Clause is based on the First Amendment of the U. S. Constitution. The Religion Establishment Clause is used as the legal basis to prohibit the Bible from being taught in the government public schools in America. This law is used to justify the prohibition of Bibles and use of Bibles in government agencies and other places of public accommodations; such as hotels and motels. The words, quotations and references to the Bible are often censured, discouraged and disparaged. Some candidates who are being sworn in for American public office refuse to place their hand on the Bible for the administration of the oath of office. The legal restrictions and public prohibitions against the Bible and the use and content of the Bible are being done without sufficient competent legal investigation and study. A serious revisit of this "Religion Establishment Clause" is urgently needed. In addition to reviewing the legality of the "Religion Establishment Clause," a competent social, national, political, economical, cultural, health, educational and theological impact study would be of great service to America and the world. The heterogeneous and technological complexities of the world have critically, narrowed the margins of error. This error is unaffordable.

THE READING AND LANGUAGE OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; of the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

RELATIONSHIP OF THE BIBLE TO AMERICAN LAW:

The influence of the Bible predates the 13 American Colonies that began about 1607 AD. Christian ministers and other Christians spread the teachings of the Bible throughout the Thirteen Colonies in America. The spread of the teachings of the Bible and the salvation news of Jesus Christ brought about eventually, what is called the "Great Awakening" in the American Colonies. The great spiritual awakening resulted from a massive Christian led movement of evangelistic teachings, revivals, conversions and dedication to freedom to live, work and worship without government restrictions and hindrance. It must be noted that Black Africans (Negro slaves) were first brought to the Colony at Jamestown, Virginia in 1619 and they were not considered as fully equal or equally human as their White counterparts. However, they became a part of this vibrant social and political movement in the new colonial world.

The culture of the Colonies became saturated with the ethical teachings, enlightening knowledge and liberating spirit of the biblical knowledge of the Bible and the soul salvation knowledge of Jesus Christ. The Colonists were inspired and motivated to build communities, churches and schools and to engage in free enterprise endeavors. This new beginning was inspired and sustained by the Christians and Bible believers. The Bible was their primary reading and teaching book. Many could not read or write, but they learned through the oral quotations of Scripture of the Bible. The Bible became a motivator to learn to read, write and get an education. Many schools were established during this colonial period. Many African American slaves were motivated to read and get an education so that they could read the Bible. The American Negro slaves never considered the Bible a "White man's religion."

It was the influence of the Bible that initiated the Declaration of Independence in 1776; the Constitution of the United States in 1787. The Bible influenced the ratification of the Bill of Rights in 1791 and the recognition of a democratic form of government described by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 as, "a government of the people, by the people, and for the people," and the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 that freed the Negro American slaves in 1863. In subsequent years the Bible influenced the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag as "One Nation under God." and the American Motto on American currency, "In God We Trust." The influence of the Bible is imbedded deeply in the American culture, education, social, economic and political institutions. The single most document that has made the greatest difference for good in America and the world, has been and is the Holy Bible. This magnificent, unfathomable and extraordinary gift to humanity must be respected, re-examined, revisited, reconsidered, reunited, reclaimed, replenished, renewed and revitalized. Generations, civilizations and nations have been enlightened, guided, nurtured and strengthened by the knowledge, understanding, wisdom, spiritual concern and love contained in and radiates from the Bible.

EXPLORING THE BIBLICAL AND LEGAL PARADOX:

Considering the massive enlightening and constructive influence of the Bible on the American culture and founding documents and Western Civilization as well; this paradoxical irony must be emphatically noted and explored. It is an egregious ironical paradox that the Religion Establishment Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U. S. Constitution is used (paradoxically) to prohibit the Bible from being taught in the public government schools, along with disparaging attempts to build a wall of separation between the Bible and the government; cloaked as "separation of government and religion," and "separation of "Church and State," How is this rational, legitimate and reconcilable when the unique Bible has been influencing cultures, civilization and nations for civility and good for over five thousand years? Biblical knowledge and the foundation and guidance for the governing documents, the Constitution and the democracy of America are based on biblical influence. The Bible is the foundation for America's Constitution, Democracy and civilization's humanizing influence.

The disparagement, marginalization and misrepresentation of the Bible, in reference to the "Religion Establishment Clause" is based on dogmatic ignorance of the Bible's manifested significant truths and pro life human values for over five thousands years of world history. The expansive disparagement and prohibitions against the Bible is also based on the false premises and presumptions that the Bible is a religion (undefined). The disparagement and subservient relegated status of the Bible in the American Government and general society, has and continues to cause tragic human deprivations, cultural damages, political corruption and national calamities beyond description and calculations.

APPEAL, REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION:

IT IS HEREBY APPEALED, REQUESTED AND HEREBY RECOMMENDED BY THE DULY INCORPORATED CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC THEOLOGY OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, USA

TO: THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES; UNITED STATES CONGRESS; THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

IT IS RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED THAT THE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT:

- ___ 1. DEFINE THE MEANING AND ROLE OF RELIGION IN THE FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.**

- ___ 2. CLARIFY THE LEGAL PLACE, PUBLIC ROLE, EDUCATIONAL CLASSIFICATION, THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE GOVERNMENT TO THE BIBLE AS RELATED TO THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**

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