

Where Prayer Focuses Power Falls!

1. University Students' Rights to Equal Access and Opportunity for Christian Groups: Pray that all student groups have the same access to resources a university has made available such as funding, room usage, mail systems, etc. Pray that public universities, like the University of Houston, Clear Lake, do not discriminate against Christian Groups. At the University of Houston, Clear Lake, university-recognized student groups on campus were allowed to choose their requirements for their leadership. However, a Christian group Ratio Christi was refused university recognition because they required their leadership to be a Christian and follow Christian tenets. (Only university-recognized groups can advertise and announce freely on campus and can have access to student activity fees all students are required to pay.) After a lawsuit brought by Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), all university-recognized groups were allowed to choose their own leadership. Pray that Christian student leaders know their rights and are allowed to determine group leadership at all universities. (Source: www.adflegal.org)

2. Freedom of Religion within One's Profession: Pray that Christians can exercise the freedom to practice their religion/conscience, no matter what profession they choose. Thank God, New Mexico physicians are no longer compelled by law to participate actively in Physician Assisted Suicide (PAS) or passively by referring a patient to someone who would assist in their suicide. The law has a "membership requirement" that prohibits professional associations (like the Christian Medical and Dental Association) from ensuring its members do not participate in PAS. Shortly after ADF filed a lawsuit, the state passed a bill that allows medical professionals to decline such participation for reasons of conscience or religious beliefs. California's similar law was also challenged successfully by ADF. Pray that no physician anywhere in the U.S. would be compelled to participate in assisted suicide or anything else that violates their religious beliefs. (Source: www.adflegal.org)

3. Freedom to Share the Gospel or Bible: Pray that Christians and all others continue to have and exercise the right to share the gospel. Pray that students on college campuses will continue to be able to freely speak on campus (including sharing the gospel). Student Chike Uzuegbunam was told he could not share the gospel except in a "speech zone" that encompassed 0.0015 percent of his campus and was available only 10 percent of the time. After reserving "the speech zone" a policeman told Chike that someone complained and that Chike's peaceful speech was classified as "disorderly conduct," (defined as any speech "which disturbs the peace and/or comfort of person(s).") Praise God that Chike prevailed at the U.S. Supreme Court. Pray that students would know and defend their right to freely share the gospel. (Source: adflegal.org)

4. Sanctity of Life: Pray that our nation would value life and that the murder of the unborn, disabled, or elderly would not be tolerated or funded by our government. In June 2022, the Supreme Court overturned its 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision. Now, that each state must decide the question of the abortion issue, pray that unborn life would be preserved as states work out the details of their own statutes. (Source: www.adflegal.org)

5. Religious Freedom in Public Schools: Pray that students would not be hindered from exercising their religious rights while at public school. A letter from ADF resulted in a favorable response from a school district. A line from a first-grader's poem for a Veterans Day celebration was deleted because it described how her grandfather prayed while serving on the frontlines during the Vietnam War. Pray that the students and parents know and exercise their legal rights: to opt out of activities that violate their religious beliefs; to pray or bring their bible to school; to form bible clubs; to choose religious topics when students are free to choose topics. (Sources: www.christianlaw.org and www.adflegal.org)

6. Freedom of Religion for Christian Ministries: Pray that Christian ministries will continue to be able to set policy according to their religious beliefs. Pray that Christian adoption providers who help children find loving homes with married moms and dads be protected, and not shut down for their faith. New York Department of Children and Family Services and the New York Division of Human Rights tried to shut down New Hope Family Services (which takes no public funding) for placing children according to New Hope's religious mission. Praise God that New Hope prevailed in court and the state agencies had to pay \$275,000 in attorney fees in both cases. Pray for New Hope's right to continue placing children in permanent homes without government harassment. (Source: adflegal.org)

7. Freedom of Religion in One's Own Home: Pray that the constitutional right to engage in religious exercise within one's own home remains free from government burden and interference. Rabbi Illulian hosted gatherings for family members and friends (not the public) that included Shabbat prayers, dinner, and religious holiday celebrations. The city of Beverly Hills, after receiving complaints from a private citizen, invasively investigated (including drone surveillance) Rabbi Illulian's gatherings and issued a "Notice of Violation" prohibiting all religious activity at the home with non-residents. Praise the Lord that after receiving 2 letters from a law firm and First Liberty, the city withdrew their notices. Pray that everyone will continue to be allowed to exercise their right to exercise their religion within their own home. (Source: www.firstliberty.org)

8. Freedom from discrimination for Christian Universities: Pray that Christian universities will have equal opportunities to work with local school districts as secular universities. An Arizona public school board canceled a university's student-teaching contract citing only the university's Christian beliefs. Praise the Lord the school district reinstated the contract with the university after ADF filed a lawsuit on the Christian university's behalf. Pray that no Christian University or entity will be treated differently because of their religious views. (Source: adflegal.org)

9. Freedom of Religion for Religious Organizations to Hire Consistent with their Religious Beliefs: Pray that religious organizations continue to be able to hire according to their religious beliefs. The Washington Supreme Court said Seattle's Union Gospel Mission can be sued under the state employment laws for declining to hire a lawyer for its legal-aid clinic who disagreed with the Mission's religious beliefs and even explicitly stated that he had applied for the position hoping to change those beliefs. Pray for a favorable outcome to the appeal. Pray that no Christian organization would be forced to hire those who do not agree with their mission. (Source: adflegal.org)

10. Supreme Court: Pray that each justice would be courageously impartial in every case. Pray that God would help each justice to make decisions that would be in keeping with the purity and character of the living Judeo/Christian God. Pray that the Lord would bring future justices of His choice onto the Court in His sovereign timing. Ask God to draw each justice to Himself.

Prayer for Christians to Exercise Rights in the Public School Arena

Current legally protected rights of religious expression: From Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation

(<http://cpcfoundation.com/religious/religious-freedom/>)



- 11. Discrimination**—School authorities may not discriminate against religious activity or speech. Pray that school administrators would uphold students' and teachers' religious and speech rights.
- 12. Bible Reading and Prayer**—Students may read their Bibles or other Scriptures, say a prayer before meals and pray before tests. Pray that Christian students would freely and courageously pray and read their Bibles at appropriate times during school.
- 13. Discussions**—Students may attempt to persuade their peers concerning religious topics, just as they may political topics. Harassment, however, (which is not defined) is not permissible. Pray that Christian students would lovingly share Jesus with their peers and have wisdom not to harass their classmates.
- 14. School Work**—Students may use religious themes in their homework, artwork, or other assignments, and such work should be judged (graded) by ordinary academic standards. Pray that students would seek God to creatively share Christian themes in their school assignments.
- 15. Literature**—Students have the right to distribute religious literature (tracts, etc.) to their schoolmates on the same terms as they are permitted to distribute other literature. Pray that students would discern how to best distribute religious literature to their peers.
- 16. Religious Objections**—Students may be excused from lessons that are objectionable on religious or other conscientious grounds. Pray the Christian parents would be made aware of any lessons presented to their child/ren that are religiously objectionable and that they would boldly have their child/ren excused from these lessons when deemed warranted.
- 17. Clothing**—Students may wear clothing depicting religious themes, and these messages may not be singled out for suppression. They are subject to the same rules as apply to comparable messages. Pray that Christian students feel free to wear clothing with a Christian message.
- 18. Christian Groups**—Students religious groups at public secondary schools have the same right of access to school facilities as is enjoyed by other comparable student groups. Pray that students are not hindered from access to school facilities and help these groups know and articulate these rights to authorities.
- 19. Student Meetings**—Student meetings may include a prayer service, Bible reading, or other worship exercise. Pray that students would confidently take advantage of opportunities to meet together for religious activities at school.
- 20. Access**—Students may use the public address system, the school newspaper, and the school bulletin board to announce their meetings, on the same terms as other student groups. (This only applies to schools receiving federal funds.) Pray that administrators allow student groups at your local schools equal access as other groups.
- 21. Teaching**—Schools may teach about religion, including the Bible or other scripture, the history of religion, the Bible-as-literature, and the role of religion in the United States and other countries. Schools are to be neutral with respect to religion. However, they may play an active role with respect to teaching civic values and virtue, and the moral code that holds us together as a community. Schools may not allow religious instruction by outsiders on school premises during the school day. However, school officials may dismiss students to off-premises religious instruction. Pray that Christian teachers seek God in how to neutrally incorporate religion in their lessons and that they may do so without censure.

(Concerning the points below, pray In Jesus's name and bind any people or demons trying to remove, or limit, these rights.)

Student Rights at Public Schools:

22. ▶ Students can pray, read their Bibles or other religious material, and talk about their faith at school.
▶ Students can organize prayer groups and religious clubs, and they can announce their meetings.
23. ▶ Students can express their faith in their classwork and homework.
▶ Teachers can organize prayer groups with other teachers.
24. ▶ Students may be able to go off campus to have religious studies during school hours.
25. ▶ Students can express their faith at a school event.
Students can express their faith at their graduation ceremony.

Student Rights at Public University:

26. **Freedom of Speech** - The U.S. Constitution protects your right to express personal religious and political beliefs in writing, speech, and visual or performing arts while at a public university. In class, professors may ask you to take positions you disagree with, so long as they do not require you to agree with those positions outside the classroom.
27. **Freedom of Association** - Christian and conservative student groups have the same right to associate on public university campuses as any other group.
28. **Free Exercise of Religious Beliefs** - Public universities cannot compel you to publicly advocate views and adopt values that are contrary to your beliefs.
29. **Equal Access** - All recognized student groups have the same right to access resources a university has made available. This includes funding, meeting rooms, mail systems, or other campus resources.
30. **Equal Opportunity** - As a student, you have the right to be free from censorship, reprisal, or punishment for your beliefs. Students with religious or conservative beliefs should have the same chance at academic success, employment, and promotion.

A summary of key points from *Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools* (www.ed.gov) by Gateways to Better Education (www.GoGateways.org)