

Great Things God Has Done For The American Church!

What are some of the things that are blessings about our form of government in America to the American church?

1. The government is not supposed to be the church.

- America's constitutional structure places limits on government power concerning religion. This can be a blessing because it means the church doesn't have to depend upon the state to establish or protect Christianity.
- Historically, Christians have sometimes suffered when the church and state become too closely intertwined. A government that doesn't have any authority over the church leaves the church free to be the church and to in turn offer godly influence to civil government.

2. Freedom to worship and proclaim the gospel.

- Perhaps the most obvious blessing is religious liberty. Christians can gather for worship, preach the gospel, plant churches, evangelize, publish Christian material, educate their children, and organize ministries without the government requiring them to conform to an official religion.
- That gives the American Church remarkable freedom to obey Christ's command to “make disciples of all nations.”

3. Freedom of speech makes public witness possible.

- The ability to speak openly about Christ, morality, Scripture, and the gospel is enormously valuable to the body of Christ in America.
- A pastor can preach a sermon criticizing government policy. A Christian can write a book defending biblical ethics. A church can hold a public evangelistic event. Christians can peacefully advocate for laws that advance the biblical worldview and biblical ethics.
- That freedom isn't merely useful politically—it can serve the church's prophetic witness.

4. Freedom of assembly (1A) allows Christians to organize.

The church isn't restricted to Sunday worship. Christians can establish:

- Churches and denominations
- Mission organizations
- Seminaries and Bible colleges
- Pregnancy-support ministries
- Homeless ministries
- Christian schools
- Addiction recovery ministries
- Publishing ministries
- Disaster-relief organizations
- Charities and hospitals

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- The ability to voluntarily associate (1A) with one another gives Christians tremendous opportunity to exercise the gifts God has given them.

5. The rule of law can protect the weak.

- A constitutional republican system with courts, due process, property rights, and limitations on government power can provide important protections for Christians and everyone else.
- The church benefits when rulers aren't simply able to seize property, imprison opponents, or shut down organizations at will.
- Paul himself made use of Roman legal protections when his rights were being violated (Acts 22:25–29). Christians can therefore legitimately appreciate and use lawful governmental protections and due process without confusing those protections with salvation.

6. Peaceful political participation is available.

- Americans have extraordinary opportunities to influence their government through voting, petitioning, public advocacy, running for office, and participating in civic life.
- That gives Christians an avenue to pursue advocacy for biblical principles and issues that spiritual at their core and are of benefit to the culture at large.
- Christians can participate in electing office holders that advance godly policies.
- But there's an important distinction: Christians can participate in politics without making politics their hope.

7. Religious freedom benefits Christians who disagree with one another.

- This is an underrated blessing.
- Baptists, Presbyterians, Catholics, Pentecostals, Lutherans, Orthodox Christians, non-denominational churches, and others can worship according to their convictions without needing the government to decide which expression of Christianity is correct.
- That can encourage the church to rely upon persuasion, Scripture, and the work of the Holy Spirit rather than political coercion.

Great Things God Has Done For The American Church!

8. Government power is divided and limited.

- The American system deliberately distributes governmental authority rather than placing everything in one person's hands.
- For the church, this can create space to resist unjust government action. A president, Congress, governor, or local official does not possess unlimited authority.
- From a Christian perspective, that can be consistent with the biblical recognition that human rulers are fallible and power needs restraint.
- Limited power protects the other biblically ordained institutions (Church and family)

9. Prosperity and stability can create opportunities for ministry.

- America's relative economic prosperity has allowed enormous resources to flow toward missions, Bible translation, hospitals, schools, disaster relief, and humanitarian work.
- American Christians have been able to **send missionaries around the world**, support churches in other countries, translate Scripture, and fund ministries on a remarkable scale.
 - Between 1800 and 2000, the **United States** sent out the most missionaries of any nation in the world.
 - While Great Britain dominated global missionary deployment during the first half of the 19th century through prominent groups like the [London Missionary Society](#), the **United States** experienced an explosion in missionary zeal following the [Second Great Awakening](#).
 - By the late 19th century and throughout the entire 20th century, the U.S. became the undisputed leader in both the total volume of personnel sent abroad and financial backing for global missions.
 - According to Todd Johnson, director of the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, in 2010 the U.S. sent out one out of every four missionaries—127,000 of the world's estimated 400,000 missionaries.
 - In distant second place is Brazil, which sent 34,000 missionaries abroad.

Of course, prosperity itself can become a spiritual danger—Jesus repeatedly warns about wealth. But the resources produced by prosperity can be stewarded for the kingdom.

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10. The church is reminded that its ultimate allegiance is elsewhere.

- Perhaps paradoxically, America's constitutional freedoms can help Christians understand an important biblical truth:
- America isn't the Kingdom of God; it is a kingdom among men in the fullness of history.
- We can be deeply grateful for our country while remembering:
- “Our citizenship is in heaven.” — Philippians 3:20
- The best relationship between the American church and American government isn't for the church to become the government's chaplain or for Christians to treat America as a Christian kingdom.
- Rather, the blessing is that Christians have considerable freedom to worship Christ, proclaim Christ, serve their neighbors, practice biblical justice (not leftist social justice), and persuade their fellow citizens in a kingdom of men—while ultimately belonging to Christ's Kingdom.

A helpful way to summarize it:

America's form of government is a gift and blessing to the Church because it gives the church substantial freedom from governmental coercion and substantial freedom for Christian obedience.

And that distinction matters. The government gives the church room to operate; only Christ gives the church its mission.

There are fascinating biblical principles behind the American ideas of religious liberty, limited government, checks and balances, and the rule of law.