

THIS WEEK IN CONSCIENCE & JUSTICE

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Friday, June 27, 2025



Top News

- New Texas law will require Ten Commandments to be posted in every public school classroom
- Support for Christian prayer in U.S. public schools varies widely by state
- Faith groups say House Republicans' probe into immigration work violates their religious freedom
- Faith Behind Closed Doors: Analyzing Personal Religious Practice in Daily Life

New Texas law will require Ten Commandments to be posted in every public school classroom

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) – Texas will require all public school classrooms to display the Ten Commandments under a new law that will make the state the nation's largest to attempt to impose such a mandate.

Gov. Greg Abbott announced Saturday that he signed the bill, which is expected to draw a legal challenge from critics who consider it an unconstitutional violation of the separation of church and state.

A similar law in Louisiana was blocked when a federal appeals court ruled Friday that it was unconstitutional. Arkansas also has a similar law that has been challenged in federal court.

The Texas measure easily passed in the Republican-controlled state House and Senate in the legislative session that ended June 2.

"The focus of this bill is to look at what is historically important to our nation educationally and judicially," Republican state representative Candy Noble, a co-sponsor of the bill, said when it passed the House.

[Continue Reading: apnews.com](http://apnews.com)



Support for Christian prayer in U.S. public schools varies widely by state

Renewed debates are happening across the United States about the place of religion – especially Christianity – in public schools. An evenly divided Supreme Court recently upheld a ban on what would have been the nation's first religious public charter school, in Oklahoma. Texas lawmakers are considering requiring public schools to display the Ten Commandments in classrooms, while a federal appeals court struck down a similar law in Louisiana earlier this month. And legal battles persist over prayer at school sporting events and making time for prayer during the school day.

Today, Americans are deeply split on the question of whether to allow Christian prayer in school:

- Just over half of U.S. adults (52%) say they favor allowing public school teachers to lead their classes in prayers that refer to Jesus: 27% say they strongly favor this, and 26% say they favor it.
- 46% of adults oppose allowing public school teachers to lead their classes in prayers that refer to Jesus: 22% say they strongly oppose this, and 24% say they oppose it.

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Faith groups say House Republicans' probe into immigration work violates their religious freedom

A House investigation launched by two Republican congressmen into dozens of religious organizations and denominations, from the U.S. Catholic bishops to the Unitarian Universalist Association, is being called a violation the groups' religious liberty.

On June 11, U.S. Rep Mark E. Green of Tennessee, who chairs the House Committee on Homeland Security, and Rep. Josh Brecheen of Oklahoma, who is also part of the committee, announced plans for a probe of more than 200 nongovernmental organizations they accused of being "involved in providing services or support to inadmissible aliens during the Biden-Harris administration's historic border crisis."

The lawmakers unveiled a letter they planned to send to all of the organizations. Among other allegations, the letter argues the Biden administration's reliance on nonprofit groups signaled "those who arrived illegally or without proper documentation that they could expect such assistance, all expensed to American taxpayers, once they arrived in the United States."

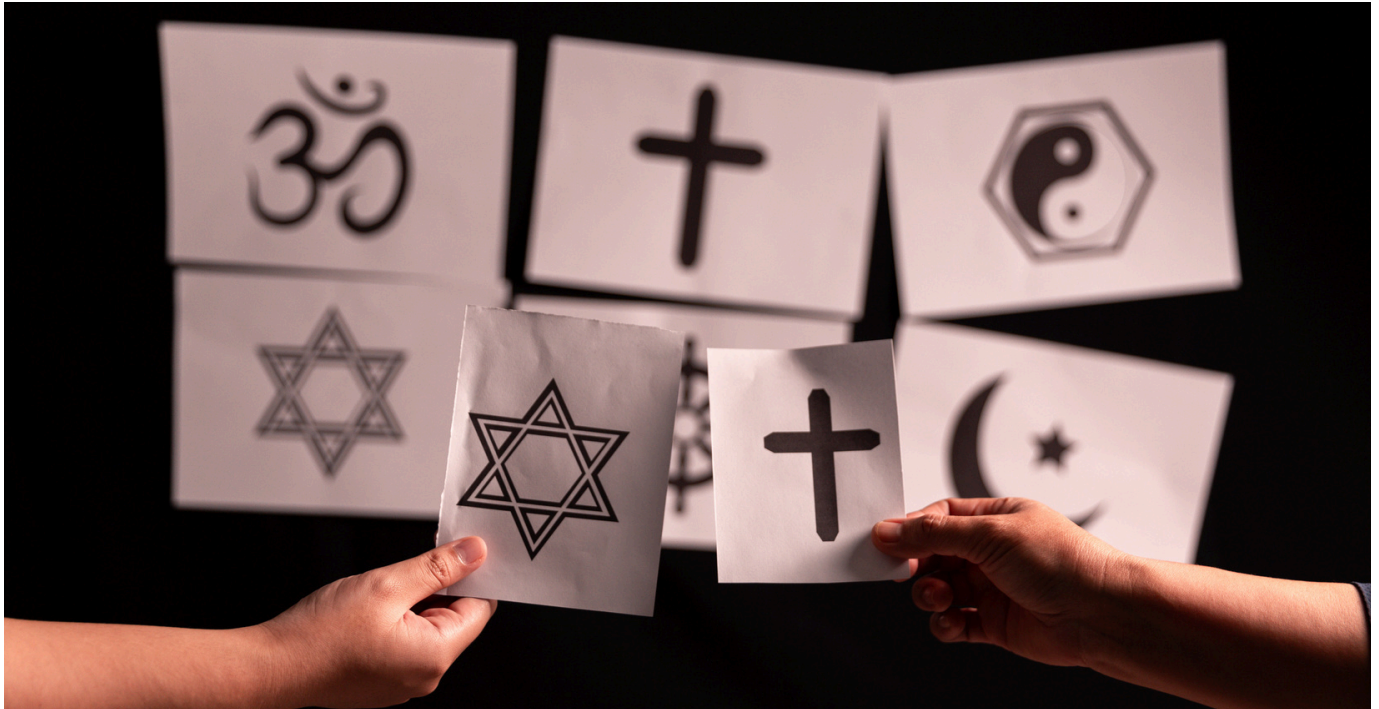
The letter included a link to a lengthy questionnaire asking the groups if they had received any "grant, contract, or other form of disbursement from the federal government" or provided "legal services, translation services, transportation, housing, sheltering, or any other form of assistance" to undocumented immigrants or unaccompanied immigrant children.

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Pastor Jennifer Castle joins others outside the U.S. District Court after a federal judge blocked President Donald Trump's effort to halt the nation's refugee admissions system, Feb. 25, 2025, in Seattle. (AP Photo/Ryan Sun)

Faith Behind Closed Doors: Analyzing Personal Religious Practice in Daily Life



While both prayer and scripture reading have declined among Americans over the past decade, they remain central expressions of religious engagement among many Americans. Prayer continues to be practiced at higher rates than scripture reading, highlighting a personal connection with the divine and ease of practice, compared with the time-intensive nature of reading religious texts that focuses more on doctrine and tradition. This Spotlight examines how frequently Americans are praying and reading religious texts outside of religious services across all 50 states, with special attention paid to race, gender, and religious affiliation.

Race and Gender

About half of Americans (48%) report praying outside of a religious service at least once a week, compared with less than two in ten who pray monthly or a few times a year (17%) and one-third who seldom or never pray (34%). Notably, women (54%) are more likely than men (41%) to pray at least once a week.

There are also differences by race and ethnicity. Most Black Americans (62%) report praying at least once a week, followed by half of Hispanic (48%) and white (47%) Americans, 39% of multiracial Americans, and 30% of AAPI Americans. There is also a distinct gender divide among racial groups. Black women (68%) are more likely than Black men (54%) to say they personally pray at least once a week. The same pattern holds true for white (53% vs. 40%), Hispanic (54% vs. 42%), multiracial (46% vs. 32%), and AAPI (34% vs. 25%) women and men.

In comparison, most Americans (56%) say they seldom or never read the Bible, Torah, Qur'an, or other sacred text. Over four in ten Americans report reading a sacred text either at least once a week (25%) or monthly or yearly (18%). Women (27%) are significantly more likely than men (22%) to report reading a sacred text weekly. While most Black Americans (62%) pray weekly, only 39% read a sacred text at the same frequency. Still, they are more likely than multiracial (24%), Hispanic (24%), white (23%), and AAPI (18%) Americans to read sacred texts weekly. Nearly half of Black women (45%) frequently read religious texts, compared with one-third of Black men (32%). Aside from AAPI women and men (both 18%), there is a similar gender divide on frequent scripture reading among multiracial (31% vs. 18%), Hispanic (27% vs. 21%), and white (25% vs. 21%) women and men.

Continue Reading: prri.org

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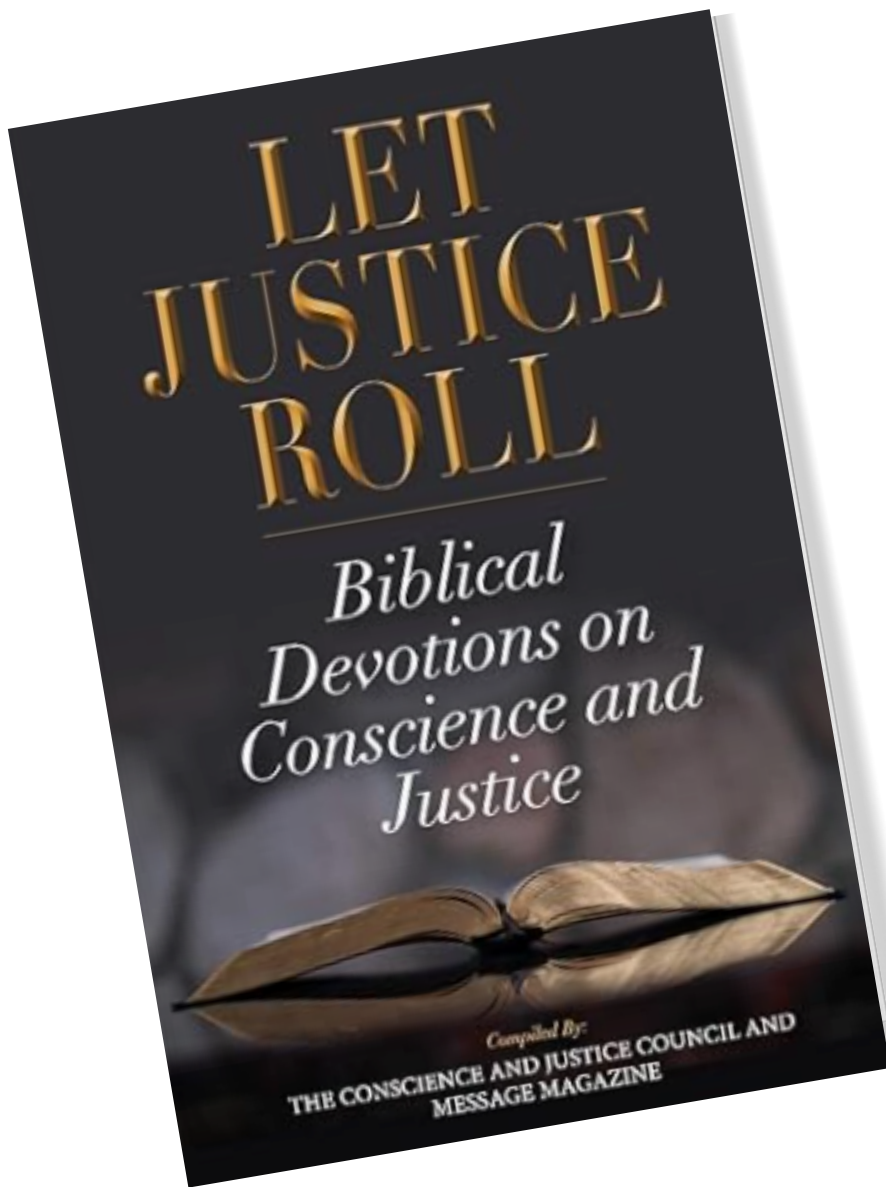
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KEY DATES

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Submit By: August 31st, 2025

Expo: September 28th, 2025



Let Justice Roll: Biblical Devotions on Conscience and Justice

"Let Justice Roll" is a compelling devotional that walks the reader through 365 days of biblical insights in freedom of conscience, and social justice. This compilation of articles represents the work of a nationwide network of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) advocates and other connected community activists.

The components of conscience and justice ministry include conscience, discipleship, engagement, fellowship, the power of the Holy Spirit, love, and prophecy. This is a must-read book for all followers of Christ and those who seek spiritual growth. Get ready to explore the profound biblical insights in this masterful book.

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OUR PURPOSE

This newsletter aims to highlight news articles relating to religious liberty, civil rights, and social justice. The Conscience & Justice Council desires to be attuned with society so that we may change the nation by impacting one community at a time. Articles linked above are meant to provoke thought and discussion on important topics, and do not always express options or views endorsed by the CJC.

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