

CHURCH & STATE



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From the time of founding the first American colonies, free exercise of religion has been a cornerstone of America's governing principles – as can be seen from the extract of the 1620 *Mayflower Compact*, below – that is until 1947, when the Supreme Court turned the First Amendment on its head!

“Having undertaken, for the Glory of God, and advancements of the Christian faith and honor of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the Northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents, solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God, and one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic; for our better ordering, and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions, and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the colony; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience.”

KEY BIBLE VERSES

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

(Matthew 28:19-20a)

Jesus said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” And they marveled at him.

(Mark 12:17)

ARTICLE - The Separation of Church and State

Published by Focus on the Family; Date: 2008

<http://www.focusonthefamily.com/socialissues/social-issues/separation-of-church-and-state.aspx>

Extract

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution begins with "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion," a phrase commonly called the Establishment Clause. In the 1947 Supreme Court decision, *Everson vs. Board of Education*, the Court explained the Establishment Clause as a "wall of separation between church and state."

But where did the phrase really come from? What did it originally mean? Is it the proper way to interpret the Establishment Clause? Or, is it, as former Chief Justice William Rehnquist asserted,

a "metaphor based on bad history," which should be rejected as an interpretive aid for the Establishment Clause?

VIDEO - Separation of Church and State History David Barton American Heritage

By David Barton, Wall Builders; Date 2011

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgfxppVdYq8>

Extract

Separation of Church and State. When that was given to us, it was given to us as an assurance by Thomas Jefferson. It was an assurance that the government would not stop a public religious activity. Now we use Separation of Church and State to stop every public religious activity. The Bill of Rights was given to us to make sure we had free exercise of religion. Now the Bill of Rights is given to us to make sure you can't express your religion in a public place. We have free speech, but that doesn't include religious speech. All these rights, which were really pioneered and championed by Christians, by ministers, are now being used against Christians to suppress them.

VIDEO - Origin of Separation of Church and State

By David Barton, Wall Builders; Date 2010

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WzPnpuF7h84>

Extract

The first time you find the phrase [*Separation of Church and State*] is in England in the fifteen hundreds with a theologian, Richard Hooker, and he's the one who first used the phrase Then as you come into American history, you find the first use of the phrase *Separation of Church and State* is by the minister, Christian minister, Roger Williams. It's the same thing. He is trying to get the government to leave the church alone.

PRAYER

Dear Lord,

Many of our Founders came to America to escape religious persecution, to worship You freely, and to build a God-fearing nation with the help of Your providential hand.

To this end, our Founding Fathers enshrined words of wisdom into our Constitution to protect against government encroachment on religion, and to protect against government restriction of our free religious expression.

As You know, O Lord, in a fateful decision by the Supreme Court in 1947, the religious protections of our Constitution were turned on their heads to be used against the free expression of your Word, and to promote ungodly legislation.

O Lord, we confess that we, Your people who are called by Your name, have not only been silent for too long, but also many of us have willfully embraced the

ungodly practices that have become part of the law of the land because of ungodly Court decisions.

O Lord, hear our prayers. Forgive our sins. Come down in the power of Your Spirit to revive our hearts and to renew our land.

Amen