

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Reference: **miscellaneous Scripture**

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The United States Constitution addresses religion in two different places: in the First Amendment and then the Article VI prohibition on religious tests as a condition for holding public office.

First Amendment to the United States 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; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Article VI to the United States Constitution (third paragraph)

*The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the members of the several state legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers, both of the United States and of the several states, shall be bound by oath or affirmation, to support this Constitution; **but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.***

Thomas Jefferson called religious freedom *“the most inalienable and sacred of all human rights.”*

Question: Was Jefferson right? Is religious freedom a divine right? Is religious freedom biblical?

ONE...religious freedom respects the fact man was created in the _____ (Imago Dei).

Reference: **Genesis 1:26**, *“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...’”*

Reference: **Joshua 24:15** (see screen)

TWO...Jesus Himself _____ religious freedom.

Reference: **Matthew 19:16-23** (see screen)

Reference: **Matthew 23:37**, *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, **but you were not willing!**”*

THREE...God changes human hearts not _____

Reference: **John 6:63**, *“It is the Spirit (Holy Spirit) who gives life; the flesh profits nothing...”*

Reference: **John 8:36**, *“Therefore if the Son (Jesus) makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”*

Question: What can we do about losing religious freedoms?

- be _____ to God no matter how serious things get
- be _____ and _____ consistent with a biblical world view
- _____ organizations that fight legal battles defending our constitutional rights
 - ACLJ (American Center for Law and Justice),
 - Liberty Counsel,
 - Focus on the Family’s political affiliate Citizen Link,
 - Alliance Defending Freedom,
 - U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops,
 - Family Research Council,
 - Faith and Freedom Coalition,
 - Concerned Women for America, etc.
- be part of the _____ and not the _____
- understand we are going to suffer the continued _____ of a nation that has turned against God