

THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

Reference: **Matthew 22:15-21**

Pastor Larry Webb

Christians are being told that the First Amendment to the United States Constitution includes a clause that calls for the separation of church and state. This supposed clause is being used to restrict religious freedom and ban Christianity from an increasing number of government and or public arenas.

First amendment to the US 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.”**

In addressing the subject of religion, the first amendment was designed to do two fundamental things:

ONE... it insured that the government did not establish a _____

TWO... it insured that the government does not interfere with the _____ of religion.

Reference: **Psalm 9:17** (see screen)

Reference: **Isaiah 33:22** (see screen)

The founding fathers created from this verse three major branches of government: _____ from **judge**, _____ from **lawgiver**, and _____ from **king**.

“The law given from Sinai (the divine law Moses received from God on Mount Sinai) was a civil and municipal as well as a moral and religious code... laws essential to the existence of men in society and most of which have been enacted by every nation which ever professed any code of laws.”

John Quincy Adams

“God grant that in America, true religion and civil liberty may be _____ and that unjust attempts to destroy the one may in the issue tend to the support and establishment of both.”

John Witherspoon,
signer of the Declaration of Independence.

One of the supposed biblical arguments used to teach the doctrine of separationism is found in the book of Matthew.

Reference: **Matthew 22:15-21** (see screen)

First Question: What things are Caesar's (governments)?

Answer: _____

Second Question: What things are God's?

Answer: absolute reverence and _____

Social liberals and constitutional separationists interpret the command to *‘Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and (render) to God the things that are God’s.’* to insist that Jesus made a distinction between Caesar and God so that in effect Jesus has endorsed a definite separation between government and religion; however, Jesus was just emphasizing that, although we owe taxes to Caesar or government, we do not owe homage and worship to government as we would God. Jesus was not advocating separating human society from religion and religious influence.

Conclusion: Christians can agree to Thomas Jefferson's original intent of separation of church and state, but not this extreme separation of _____ from _____.