

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.”**

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

ONE... insure that the government did not establish a _____

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

Reference: **Isaiah 33:22**, *“For the Lord is our **Judge**, the Lord is our **Lawgiver**, the Lord is our **King**; He will save us.”*

The founding fathers created from this verse three major branches of government: _____, _____, and _____

“The law given from Sinai (the Mosaic law containing the Ten Commandments) 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)

verse 21b, *“And He (Jesus) said to them ‘Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.’”*

Social liberals and constitutional separationists interpret that phrase 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 men were to pay taxes to the head of a government as a human ruler, but not homage to him as a god. Jesus was not advocating separating human society from religion and religious influence.

Conclusion: separation of church and state, but not a separation of _____ from _____.