

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

ONE NATION
UNDER GOD

With Liberty and Justice for All



1754 1801

ELDER JOHN DELANO
BORN IN MASSACHUSETTS, HE WAS A PIONEER FACTOR
IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT
OF NEW YORK AND A FIRM ADVOCATE
OF THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY
IN THE UNITED STATES. HE WAS THE FIRST
AMERICAN TO VISIT THE WEST INDIES
IN 1781, AND HE WAS THE FIRST
TO BRING HOME TO AMERICA THE
FIRST NEGRO CHILDREN FOR THE
PURPOSE OF EDUCATING THEM.
HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE
FIRST AFRICAN METHODIST CHURCH
IN NEW YORK, AND HE WAS
THE FIRST TO BRING HOME
TO AMERICA THE FIRST
NEGRO CHILDREN FOR THE
PURPOSE OF EDUCATING THEM.



1. Religious liberty and the free exercise of religion are foundational rights for all Americans.

- Religious conviction must come from the heart. Religion that is forced is not real.
- We must reject religious coercion and persecution.

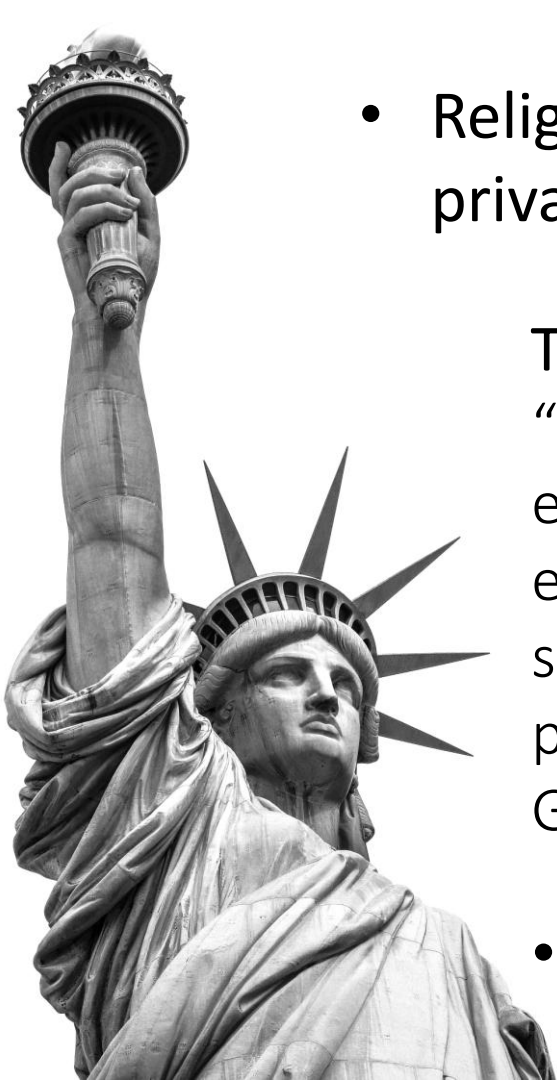
2 Corinthians 5:18-21

⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Individual Soul Liberty

Every individual, whether a believer or an unbeliever, has the liberty to choose what he believes is right in the religious realm. No one should be forced to assent to any belief against his will. Baptists have always opposed religious persecution. However, this liberty does not exempt one from responsibility to the Word of God or from accountability to God Himself.

Romans 14:5, 12; 2 Corinthians 4:2; Titus 1:9

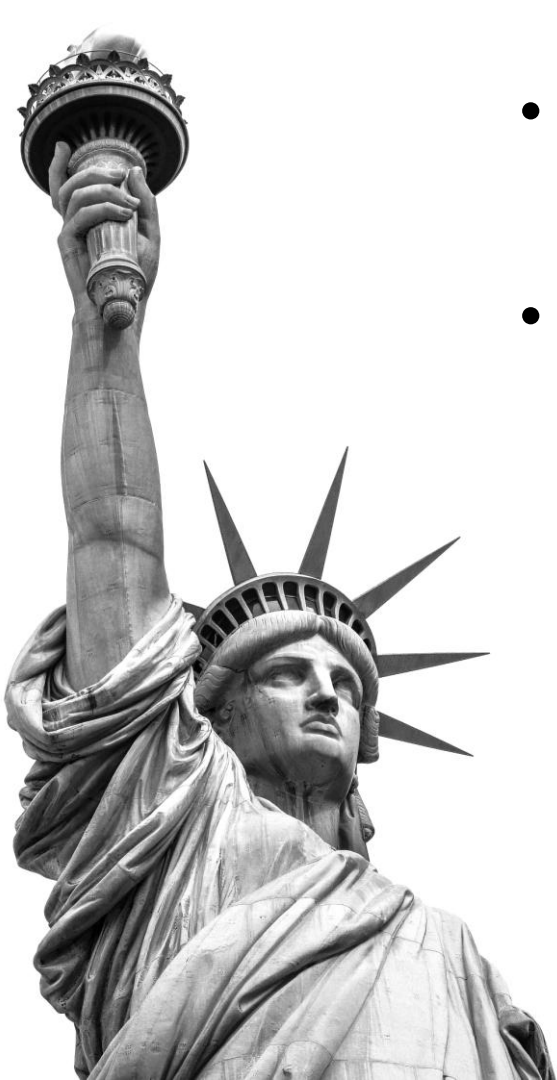


- Religious liberty is not just about private beliefs or private worship but the “free exercise” of religion.

The First Amendment to the 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.”

- Reject privatization.



- Religious liberty is not just for some groups but for everyone.
- Ideologies that would seek to take away religious freedom are incompatible with America.

“The Bill of Rights contains no grant of privilege for a group of people to destroy the Bill of Rights.” –Dwight Eisenhower

2. The separation of Church and State is meant to protect the Church from the State.



Matthew 22:17-21

¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" ²¹ They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."



2. The separation of Church and State is meant to protect the Church from the State.

- The phrase “separation of Church and State” is not in the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution. It is from a letter written by Thomas Jefferson to the Danbury Baptists.
- It is unhealthy and dangerous for the government to control the Church.

Thomas Jefferson's letter to the Danbury Baptist Association

January 1, 1802

Gentlemen, – The affectionate sentiment of esteem and approbation which you are so good as to express towards me, on behalf of the Danbury Baptist Association, give me the highest satisfaction. My duties dictate a faithful and zealous pursuit of the interests of my constituents, and in proportion as they are persuaded of my fidelity to those duties, the discharge of them becomes more and more pleasing.

Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legislative powers of government reach actions only, and not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature would "make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," thus building a wall of separation between Church and State. Adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend to restore to man all his natural rights, convinced he has no natural right in opposition to his social duties.

I reciprocate your kind prayers for the protection and blessing of the common Father and Creator of man, and tender you for yourselves and your religious association, assurances of my high respect and esteem.



- The Bill of Rights was not written to take away your freedom of religion but to secure your freedom of religion.
- The separation of Church and State was not meant to remove God from all public life.

Separation of Church and State

God established both the church and the civil government, and He gave each its own distinct sphere of operation.

The government's purposes are outlined in Romans 13:1–7 and the church's purposes in Matthew 28:19-20.

Neither should control the other, nor should there be an alliance between the two. Christians in a free society can properly influence government toward righteousness, which is not the same as a denomination or group of churches controlling the government.

Matthew 22:15–22; Acts 5:17–29

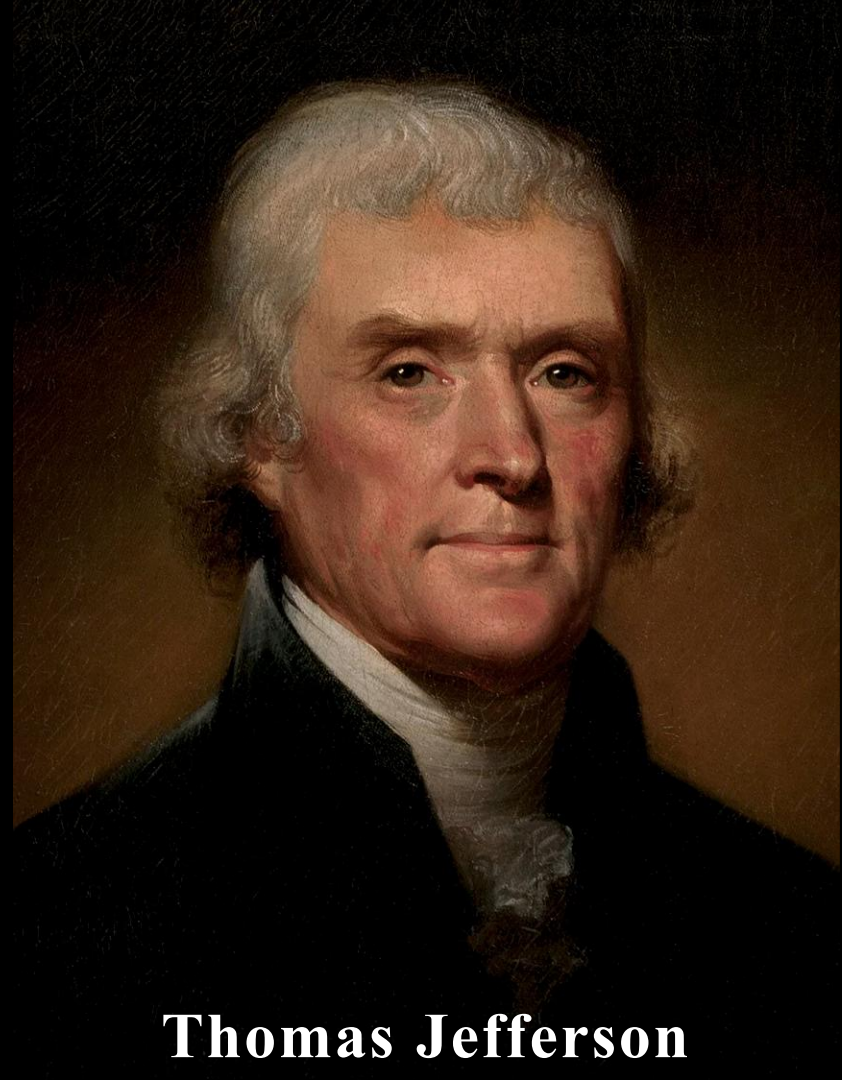


- Christians are not called to “control” the government.
- Christians are not called to abandon the government.
- Christians are called to **influence** the government.
- You don’t need to pretend you are an atheist in public or when you vote. Vote according to values shaped by your Christian Worldview.





John Adams



Thomas Jefferson

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

**ONE NATION
UNDER GOD**