

S – Separation of Church and State

Matthew 22:15 Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk. **Matthew 22:16** And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men. **Matthew 22:17** Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? **Matthew 22:18** But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? **Matthew 22:19** Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. **Matthew 22:20** And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? **Matthew 22:21** They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's. **Matthew 22:22** When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way.

John Clarke pastor of the 2nd Baptist church in the USA in Newport, RI traveled with John Crandall & Obadiah Holmes to visit a fellow Baptist near Boston....

A man by the name of Henry Dunster (1609-1659) was considered the greatest scholar in the New World and was the 1st President of Harvard overheard and saw Obadiah Holmes....

Church / religion and State is a complicated mess. It is usually a moving target.

Elimination	Persecution	Toleration (as a 2nd class citizen)	Liberation / Religious Freedom
This is found: North Korea, Islam, China, Rome (200 – 300s), Monguls (1200)	This is found: Russia, Cuba, Venezuala, India	This is found: United States, England (1689 – 1850s)	This is found: True separation of church and state: Philippines
Christianity ceases to exist.	Christianity can exist.	Christianity can exist and flourish.	Christianity

1. Separation of Church / Religion and State was **unknown** in the ANE & Greco-Roman world.

This was and is true of many countries – maybe even most countries / ethnic groups.

2. Separation of Church / Religion and State was **unthinkable** in the ANE & Greco-Roman world.

The god / gods were almost always **connected to / with an ethnic group.**

The very identity of people groups identified and connected the god(s), king, and people together!

Exodus 12:12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; **and against all the gods of Egypt** I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

Numbers 33:4 For the Egyptians buried all their firstborn, which the LORD had smitten among them: **upon their gods also** the LORD executed judgments.

Jeremiah 43:13 He shall break also the images of Beth-shemesh, that is in the land of Egypt; and **the houses of the gods of the Egyptians** shall he burn with fire.

Judges 10:6 And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD, **and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines,** and forsook the LORD, and served not him.

1 Kings 20:23 And the servants of the king of Syria said unto him, **Their gods are gods of the hills; therefore they were stronger than we; but let us fight against them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they.**

2 Kings 18:17 And the king of Assyria sent Tartan and Rabsaris and Rab-shakeh from Lachish to king Hezekiah with a great host against Jerusalem. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. And when they were come up, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is in the highway of the fuller's field. **2 Kings 18:18** And when they had called to the king, there came out to them Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, which was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph the recorder. **2 Kings 18:19** And Rab-shakeh said unto them, Speak ye now to Hezekiah, Thus saith the great king, the king of Assyria, **What confidence is this wherein thou trustest? 2 Kings 18:20** Thou sayest, (but they are but vain words,) I have counsel and strength for the war. **Now on whom dost thou trust, that thou rebellest against me? 2 Kings 18:21** Now, behold, thou trustest upon the staff of this bruised reed, even upon Egypt, on which if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of Egypt unto all that trust on him. **2 Kings 18:22** **But if ye say unto me, We trust in the LORD our God: is not that he, whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah hath taken away, and hath said to Judah and Jerusalem, Ye shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem? 2 Kings 18:23** Now therefore, I pray thee, give pledges to my lord the king of Assyria, and I will deliver thee two thousand horses, if thou be able on thy part to set riders upon them. **2 Kings 18:28** Then Rab-shakeh stood and cried with a loud voice in the Jews' language, and spake, saying, Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria: **2 Kings 18:29** Thus saith the king, **Let not Hezekiah deceive you: for he shall not be able to deliver you out of his hand: 2 Kings 18:30** **Neither let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD, saying, The LORD will surely deliver us, and this city shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria. 2 Kings 18:31** **Hearken not to Hezekiah:** for thus saith the king of Assyria, Make an agreement with me by a present, and come out to me, and then eat ye every man of his own vine, and every one of his fig tree, and drink ye every one the waters of his cistern: **2 Kings 18:32** **Until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of corn and wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of oil olive and of honey, that ye may live, and not die: and hearken not unto Hezekiah, when he persuadeth you, saying, The LORD will deliver us. 2 Kings 18:33** **Hath any of the gods of the nations delivered at all his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? 2 Kings 18:34** **Where are the gods of Hamath, and of Arpad? where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah? have they delivered Samaria out of mine hand? 2 Kings 18:35** **Who are they among all the gods of the countries, that have delivered their country out of mine hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of mine hand? 2 Kings 18:36** But the people held their peace, and answered him not a word: for the king's commandment was, saying, Answer him not.

[See the story also in 2 Chronicles 31 and Isaiah 36]

1 Kings 11:1 But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; **1 Kings 11:2** Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. **1 Kings 11:3** And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. **1 Kings 11:4** For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. **1 Kings 11:5** **For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. 1 Kings 11:6** And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. **1 Kings 11:7** **Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. 1 Kings 11:8** **And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. 1 Kings 11:9** And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, **1 Kings 11:10** And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded. **1 Kings 11:11** Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. **1 Kings 11:12** Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son. **1 Kings 11:13** Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.

3. Separation of Church / Religion and State was not part of Israel's heritage and purpose.

Exodus 20:1 And God spake all these words, saying, **Exodus 20:2** **I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.**

Deuteronomy 5:1 And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them. **Deuteronomy 5:2** The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. **Deuteronomy 5:3** The LORD made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day. **Deuteronomy 5:4** The LORD talked with you face to face in the mount out of the midst of the fire, **Deuteronomy 5:5** (I stood between the LORD and you at that time, to shew you the word of the LORD: for ye were afraid by reason of the fire, and went not up into the mount;) saying, **Deuteronomy 5:6** **I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.**

Deuteronomy 6:1 Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: **Deuteronomy 6:2** That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. **Deuteronomy 6:3** Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.

Psalm 82:1 God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; He judgeth among the gods.

Psalm 96:5 For all the gods of the nations are idols: **But the LORD made the heavens.**

Psalm 136:2 O give thanks unto the God of gods: For his mercy endureth for ever.

Thoughts:

- **The Lord is the God of the Jewish people and nation**
- **The Lord is the true God**
- **The Lord is the only God**
- **The Lord is King of King, Lord of Lords, & God of Gods!**
- **Therefore the Lord was not a local, ethnic God but the Lord of Lords and King of Kings!**

Revelation 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, **The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.**

Revelation 17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: **for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings:** and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Revelation 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. **Revelation 19:12** His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. **Revelation 19:13** And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. **Revelation 19:14** And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. **Revelation 19:15** And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

Revelation 19:16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, **KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.**

1 Timothy 6:13 I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; **1 Timothy 6:14** That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: **1 Timothy 6:15** Which in his times he shall shew, **who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;** **1 Timothy 6:16** Who **only** hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

The nation of Israel did have an absolute separation of powers!

KINGS:	PRIESTS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tribe of Judah ➤ Family of David 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tribe of Levi ➤ Family of Aaron

2 Chronicles 26:1 Then all the people of Judah took **Uzziah**, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Amaziah. **2 Chronicles 26:2** He built Eloth, and restored it to Judah, after that the king slept with his fathers. **2 Chronicles 26:3** **Sixteen years old was Uzziah when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and two years in Jerusalem.** His mother's name also was Jecoliah of Jerusalem. **2 Chronicles 26:4** **And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah did.**

2 Chronicles 26:5 And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper.

2 Chronicles 26:16 **But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense.** **2 Chronicles 26:17** And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of the LORD, that were valiant men: **2 Chronicles 26:18** **And they withstood Uzziah the king, and said unto him, It appertaineth not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the LORD, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense: go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither shall it be for thine honour from the LORD God.** **2 Chronicles 26:19** Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, from beside the incense altar. **2 Chronicles 26:20** And Azariah the chief priest, and all the priests, looked upon him, and, behold, he was leprous in his forehead, and they thrust him out from thence; yea, himself hasted also to go out, because the LORD had smitten him. **2 Chronicles 26:21** **And Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house, being a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD:** and Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land.

4. Separation of Church / Religion and State is all about **religious freedom!**

Matthew 22:15 Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk. **Matthew 22:16** And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men. **Matthew 22:17** Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? **Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?** **Matthew 22:18** But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? **Matthew 22:19** Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. **Matthew 22:20** And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? **Matthew 22:21** They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, **Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.** **Matthew 22:22** When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way.

Thoughts:

- **God instituted several spheres of authority and responsibility**

Family, Church, & State / Government

- **Each, under God, has its own authority and responsibility**
- **Each is owed its own submission**
- **The two (three) spheres are not the same**
- **The 2 tables of the Law give us some insight:**

Exodus 31:18 And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, **two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.**

Exodus 32:15 And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, **and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written.**

Exodus 32:16 **And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables.**

Exodus 34:4 And he hewed **two tables of stone** like unto the first; and Moses rose up early in the morning, and went up unto mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand **the two tables of stone.**

Exodus 34:29 And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with **the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand,** when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him.

But who is to decide who truly fears the Lord? The magistrate has no power to enforce religious demands. The laws of the First Table of the Ten Commandments are not regulations for a civil society or a political order. They belong to the realm of religion, not politics.

Roger Williams

It is less hurtful to compel a man to marry someone whom he does not love than to follow a religion in which he does not believe.

Roger Williams

The sovereign power of all civil authority is founded in the consent of the people.

Roger Williams

God requireth not a uniformity of religion to be enacted in any civil state; which enforced uniformity (sooner or later) is the greatest occasion of civil war, ravishing of conscience, persecution of Christ Jesus in his servants, and of the hypocrisy and destruction of millions of souls.

Roger Williams

There goes many a ship to sea, with many hundred souls in one ship, whose weal and woe is common, and is a true picture of a commonwealth or a human combination or society. It hath fallen out sometimes that Papists, Protestants, Jews, and Turks may be embarked in one ship; upon which supposal I affirm that all the liberty of conscience that ever I pleaded for turns upon these two hinges: that none of the Papists, Protestants, Jews, or Turks be forced to come to the ships prayers or worship, nor be compelled [restrained] from their own particular prayers or worship, if they practice any.

Roger Williams

That cannot be a true religion which needs carnal weapons to uphold it.

Roger Williams

When they have opened a gap in the ... wall of separation between the Garden of the Church and the wilderness of the world, God hath ever ... made his Garden a Wilderness.

Roger Williams

An enforced uniformity of religion throughout a nation or civil state, confounds the civil and religious, denies the principles of Christianity and civility, and that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.

Roger Williams

Men's consciences ought in no sort to be violated, urged, or constrained.

Roger Williams

Men's consciences ought in no sort to be violated, urged, or constrained. And whenever men have attempted any thing by this violent course, whether openly or by secret means, the issue has been pernicious, and the cause of great and wonderful innovations in the principallest and mightiest kingdoms and countries.

Roger Williams

Many appear to be much concerned about it [prohibition of religious tests], but nothing is more evident, both in reason, and in the holy scriptures, than that religion is ever a matter between God and individuals; and therefore no man or men can impose any religious test, without invading the essential prerogatives of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ministers first assumed this power under the Christian name; and then Constantine approved of the practice, when he adopted the profession of Christianity, as an engine of state policy. And let the history of all nations be searched, from that day to this, and it will appear that the imposing of religious tests hath been the greatest engine of tyranny in the world.

Isaac Backus

5. Separation of Church / Religion and State is about religious freedom – for all!

This appears weird to many! Baptists included everyone in this as long as they obeyed the 2nd table of the law (so the civil laws). The big problem: Those who use this freedom to subvert this freedom.

6. Separation of Church / Religion and State is about religious freedom and not a mere toleration!

Quote from George Washington to the Touro Synagogue:

The Citizens of the United States of America have a right to applaud themselves for having given to mankind examples of an enlarged and liberal policy: a policy worthy of imitation. **All possess alike liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship It is now no more that toleration is spoken of, as if it was by the indulgence of one class of people, that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights.** For happily the Government of the United States, **which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance** requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens, in giving it on all occasions their effectual support.

7. Separation of Church / Religion and State is about religious freedom and not freedom of worship!

The first amendment:

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.

This has gradually been curtailed from pressure from without and compromise from within.

This means the freedom to believe, express, live, and persuade others....

Hate groups have narrowed this down to freedom to go to church = sing, be emotional, do religion, and then shut up!

8. Separation of Church / Religion and State is about religious freedom without **coercion from any and with **persuasion** by all!**

State doesn't persecute

Church doesn't persecute...or use the state to enforce the church!

