

Unalienable Rights vs. Civil Rights

Our charter document, the **Declaration of Independence**, states that our nation is founded on truth! The foremost truth is Creation, which is the basis of all authority for our nation's legal and governmental systems. The *Laws of Nature and Nature's God refers to God's law, which the Founders adopted as the Supreme Authority* for America.

Three basic Creation principles are written into our founding documents. (1) God exists and He is the beginning and end of all things. (2) The creator of anything has authority over his created work, and (3) God delegated to Man authority over all things in the earth.

Those Framers believed that all men are created by the Creator. In the process of creation, the Creator creates the individual and thereby has authority or ownership rights over His created work. We do not own our bodies, the Creator does.

At the same time however, *the Creator grants us the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.* No, those rights do not come from the State they come from God. The individual and the State can trace most of our social problems to violating creation authority, taking power without authority.

Creation authority tracks the flow of authority from God as Supreme Authority, next, to the people whom He creates, and then to the civil government as created by the people. Our American Republic includes the compact theory of government where both the people and the State agree to comply with the Supreme Authority of God.

Now you can see why the State supports evolution in the public schools. The theory of evolution eliminates the notion of a Creator and Supreme Authority now moves from God and the people to the State. The teaching of evolution has nothing to do with monkeys; it concerns the demise of our Republic.

There are *three ideas (myths)*, which have influenced the thinking of American Christians which lead to the conclusion of **NO GOD** in our public policy:

- 1 - No moral absolutes.
- 2 - Separation of Church and State.
- 3 - Supreme Court decisions the law of the land rather than the U.S. Constitution.

In November 1993 the U.S. Congress passed the "Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) of 1993." On the surface this legislation appeared to be a very wise attempt to restore, by statute the high level of protection for religious liberty. A Supreme Court decision, *Employment Division v. Smith* (1990), virtually eliminated the requirement that the government justify burdens on religious exercise imposed by laws neutral toward religion.

This is a prime example of taking power without authority. *Religious liberty is an unalienable right, given by our Creator, recognized by the framers of the Constitution, who secured its protection in the First Amendment to the Constitution. When Congress intervened by way of statute, power without authority, trying to correct a judicial branch that had taken power without authority, religious liberty became a civil right as opposed to an unalienable right.* Civil rights are those granted by the State. Civil rights can be given and taken away at the whim of the State. In other words, *the State is now in the position to prescribe the scope and boundaries of religious liberty in the name of compelling state interest.* To sum up the impact, we have sought our religious liberty from Caesar rather than God. To make matters even worse, most American Christians do not realize this or the implications.

For example, prior to RFRA the churches and religious organizations would have been automatically exempt from most of the legislation proposed. After RFRA, churches and religious organizations will have to make sure that a "religious exemption" is included in legislation from the federal, state and local level in order to protect them from the encroachment of government and secure the free exercise of religion. Government may substantially burden a person's exercise of

religion if there is compelling governmental interest. Government is defined as a branch, department, agency, instrumentality, and official (or other person acting under color of law) of the United States, a State, or a subdivision of a State.

Now for the good news! We are in good company; unalienable rights can be traced back to the Bible. Two examples are related where *Religious Speech* and *Free Exercise of Religion* were attempted to be unlawfully regulated and God's Sovereignty prevailed. Now we are contemplating various schemes for introducing Prayer in our public policy by statute. Consider these examples as we discern the action we should take.

RELIGIOUS SPEECH

In Acts 5:17-20, the Sanhedrin tried to stop religious speech by placing the apostles in a common prison. *The Sanhedrin was not only the ecclesiastical authority but also the civil authority under Rome.* How else could you explain their authority to place them in a common prison if they were not the civil leaders? *This was an example of power without authority.* If you also cross reference John 11:47-48 and John 19:15 you will notice *those same leaders were afraid of losing their place, authority in civil government,* and when asked by Pilate, shall I crucify your King? *They replied, we have no king but Caesar.*

Return to Acts 5:19-20 and see where an angel of the Lord was sent to release them from prison and said, *Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.* This illustrates the **Supreme Authority of God** and the principle of *freedom of movement, freedom of assembly, freedom of association and freedom of religious speech in the face of the State attempting to take power without authority.*

FREE EXERCISE OF RELIGION

Daniel 6 is a great example of the **Supreme Authority of God** in the face of attempting to stop the Free Exercise of Religion and where the Unalienable Right of Public Prayer comes in conflict with Civil Government Statutes. As you recall, King Darius had established 120 governors and three rulers (presidents) over the kingdom, one of the presidents being Daniel.

The other presidents conspired along with the governors, officers, counselors and consultants to make a decree to establish a statute to entrap Daniel which stated: "that whosoever shall ask a petition of any god or man thirtie daies save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions." *The Geneva Bible – 1599.* (This is one of the earliest attempts to test the Unalienable Rights vs. the Civil Rights of the free exercise of religion and is once again a lesson of taking power without authority).

King Darius confirmed the statute and sealed the decree. What was Daniel's response? **Was it silence? No!** Daniel responded by opening his chamber window to pray (public prayer) three times a day and let people see he was not going to obey the unlawful statute (in conflict with his Unalienable Rights granted by the Creator). The Geneva Bible margin note states, "Thus the wicked cannot abide the graces of God in others, but seeke by all occasions to deface them, therefore against such assaults there is no better remedie then to walke vpright in the feare of God, and to have a good conscience."

The rest of the story is history; his God was sufficient and protected him. His enemies, along with their wives and children were thrown in the lion's den and consumed. This is the fruit and consequences awaiting those who frame laws that have a desired effect of harming God's children and attempting to usurp the Sovereignty of God.

I first penned this in 1995. After retyping and reflecting on it again in 2012 I now can see why some religious leaders and religious columnists have the "Caesar (State) is Sovereign" rather than a "God is Sovereign" worldview THERE IS ANOTHER KING, ONE JESUS (Acts 17:7).