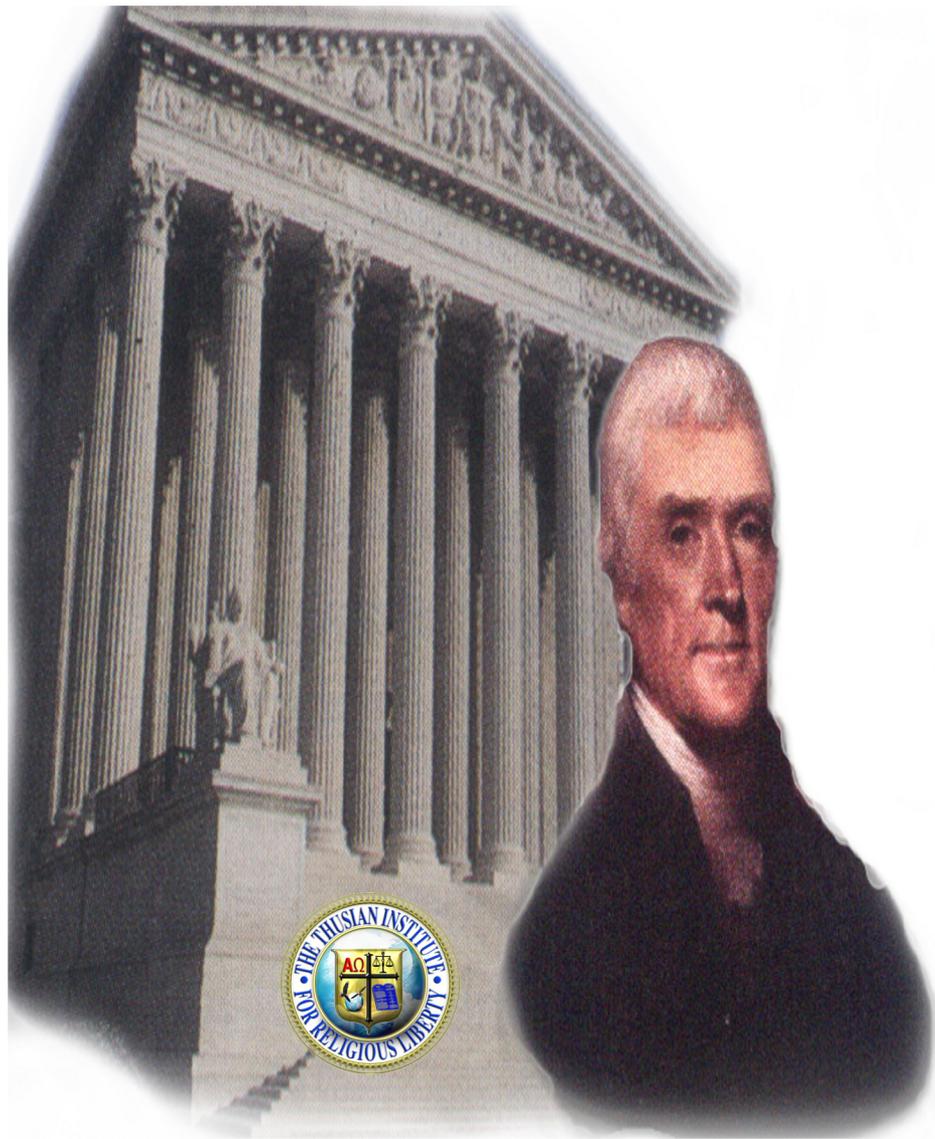
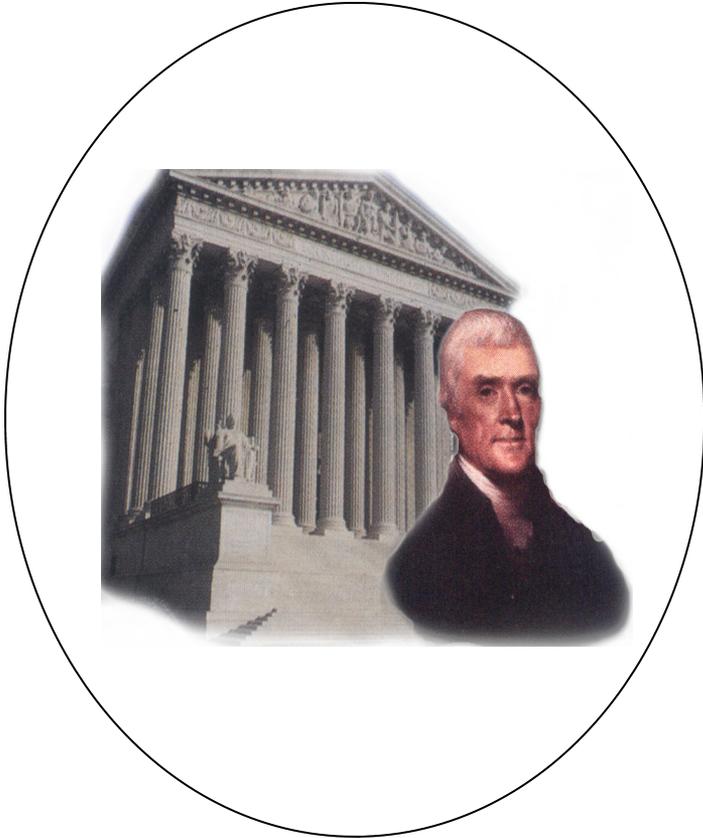


Wall of Separation **ORIGINAL INTENT**



NYRON MEDINA

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Introduction

What did Thomas Jefferson mean by the now famous phrase he coined that reads "A wall of separation"? Did he mean that, so separate was legal legislated power from being able to curb religious freedoms, that a wall existed between religion and legislation? Or did he mean that the State or the government was to be so far separated from God and religion, so as not to aid religion in any way, so that religion will be totally excluded from State schools, a child would not be able to profess Christ in school, nor preach the gospel, read the Bible, give out religious tracts, or even where religious expressions on clothes in schools or government institutions?

The second concept is what was deceptively presented by the U.S. Supreme Court and is now the prevailing concept in general society. But as this booklet explained, Thomas Jefferson did not mean that the State was to be so anti-God so as to lead to such blatant and flagrant breaches in religious liberty. Jefferson's "wall of separation" was rather constructed by him against Congress legislating against religion, and religious expression, hence against what the Supreme Court has now done to American religious life. This booklet is granted to all to understand the original intent of Thomas Jefferson's "wall of separation".

May the good God richly educate and bless all who read, in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

THE ORIGINAL INTENT OF THOMAS JEFFERSON'S WALL OF SEPARATION BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE

1. Persecution of Christianity is being waged in the U.S.A. based upon a wrong interpretation of the First Amendment Establishment Clause.

*"While tolerance is touted as the highest virtue in our popular culture, Christians are often subjected to scorn and ridicule and denied their religious freedom ... Anti-Christian discrimination occurs in a variety of contexts throughout our culture, from the public sector to the private sector, in the mainstream media and in Hollywood, in the public education system and in our universities. Often the discrimination comes from activist judges misinterpreting the law (the hostility to Christian religious freedom infects our judiciary as much as anywhere else); other times it comes from entities misapplying the law. It also comes from what we call "political correctness." The discrimination mostly stems from a hostility to Christianity and from rampant disinformation in our society about what the Constitution actually requires in terms of the so-called 'separation of church and state.'" David Limbaugh, **Persecution**, pp. ix-x.*

“Worse, though, is that as government has grown, so to have its restriction of the free exercise of religion. The courts say that public schools, because they are partially funded by federal money (First Amendment) and because they are predominantly funded by state money (Fourteenth Amendment) cannot engage in activities that are deemed an endorsement of a religion. Just the slightest nod to a religion will be enough to trigger an Establishment Clause violation. As we shall see, many schools and courts take this to absurd extremes, and to get to these absurd extremes they have to torture the original intent of the Constitution.” Ibid, p. xii.

2. Here are examples of such violation of men’s rights and persecution.

“A Montana school district prevented a motivational speaker from speaking to students at Dillon Middle School simply because he was a Christian, even though he was to make a strictly secular presentation.” Ibid, p. 39.

“Many local school districts became rather nervous when students try to give Bibles away on school grounds. There have been several cases of school districts prohibiting students from distributing Bibles to fellow students, even if they

did so when classes were not in session. The "Truth for Youth Bible," a New Testament translation geared toward teens, was the focus of one such case in Davenport, Iowa, and other cases in Missouri. In the "Show Me" state, one principal chastised students for attempting to distribute Bibles. And another principal confiscated some one thousand of the Bibles, which the students had purchased with money they had raised. At yet another school, the principal, school administrators, and police confronted students gathered around the flagpole before the school day had begun and threatened to arrest them if they didn't quit handing out Bibles. Such actions bring to mind Communist China rather than the states of ... America." Ibid, pp. 44-45.

3. The origin of such horrible state practices goes back to 1947 with the **Everson v. board of Education** case.

*"The war began in 1947 when the court decided on *Everson v. Board of Education* ... The *Everson* case served as the inauguration of the Court's subsequent doctrine of the complete "separation of church and state." The justices concluded, without and reference to American history, that the establishment clause of the First Amendment (which reads "Congress shall make*

*no law respecting the establishment of religion") prohibited the government from providing any material assistance to a religious effort. This was a novel interpretation, with virtually no previous precedent in law." Paul Schenck, **The Extermination of Christianity**, p. 131.*

4. This is a reading of the **religious part** of the **First Amendment** of the U.S. Constitution.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof ..." **The Constitution of the United States and the Declaration of Independence**, p. 21.

5. The man who wrote the phrase called "a wall of separation between church and state", Thomas Jefferson, claimed that the U.S. Constitution was to be understood according to its meaning by those who advocated it at its adoption, not by those who opposed it.

"The Constitution on which our union rests, shall be administered by me [as President] according to the safe and honest meaning contemplated by the plain understanding of the people of the United States at the time of its adoption--a meaning to be found in the explanations of those

who advocated, not those who opposed it, and who opposed it merely lest the construction should be applied which they denounced as possible.” Thomas Jefferson, quoted in Thomas Jefferson **The Worst Nightmare for the ACLU and Americans United for the Separation of Church and State**, p. 1.

6. Thomas Jefferson NEVER believed that the Establishment Clause or his statement about “separation of church and state” means that the state denying citizens of free exercise simply because they were on government property, or that government cannot acknowledge God. He said:
“Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people, that these liberties are the gift of God? That they are not violated but by His wrath? I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, and that His justice cannot sleep forever.” Thomas Jefferson, quoted in, Os Guinness, **When No One Sees**, p. 70.
7. Even though the founding fathers of the American republic agreed with and set up the First Amendment, they were not hostile to religion in public, in fact, they believed that the Christian religion was best suited to

preserve men's Rights and Republicanism, even though it was wrong for it to be legislated. Observe **John Quincy Adams**, one time president. He said:

"The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: that it tied together in one dissoluble bond, the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity." Quoted in, **America's Godly Heritage**, p. 3.

8. **John Jay** the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and one of the three men most responsible for the writing of the U.S. Constitution said.

"Providence has given to our people the choice of their Rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation, to select and prefer Christians for their Rulers." Quoted in, **Ibid**, p. 4.

9. In 1854 the **Senate** made this statement.

"At the time of the adoption of the Constitution and the Amendments, the universal sentiment was that Christianity should be encouraged, but not any one sect. In this age there can be no substitute for Christianity. That was the religion of the Founders of the Republic and they expected it

remain the religion of their descendants.”
Quoted in, **Ibid**, pp. 10-11.

10. Further proof that the First Amendment did not mean Christianity should have no affairs in government, but was only not to be legislated is seen in this statement of **James Madison** who wrote the First Amendment itself, and the man most responsible for the U.S. Constitution.

“We have staked the whole future of American civilization not on the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all our political institutions upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves according to the Ten Commandments.” **Ibid**, p. 17.

11. Again past president **John Adams** said:

“We have no government armed with power which is capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people, it is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” Quoted in, **Ibid**, p. 20.

12. **Thomas Jefferson** said further.

“The reason Christianity is the best friend of

government is because Christianity is the only religion in the world that deals with the heart."
Quoted in, **Ibid**, p. 20.

13. And what did **Benjamin Franklin** himself had to say?

"Whosoever will introduce into public affairs the principles of Christianity will change the face of the world." Quoted in **Ibid**, p. 24.

14. Thus Jefferson's wall of separation between church and state is a **one directional** wall, not addressing citizens against free public exercise or even government sponsored religious activity; it simply objected to the **legislation of religion** by **Congress**. It teaches and means only **separation of religion and legislation**. Here is **Thomas Jefferson** in his letter to the Danbury Baptists.

"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 legitimate 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 should "make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," thus building a wall of separa-

tion 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.” Quoted in , **Ibid**, p. 9.

15. Finally, in **Jefferson’s** draft letter to the Danbury Baptists, he clearly shows that the wall of separation was directed to **Congress** only, and **never** to prevent any free exercise of religion by citizens on government property. He said:

“Congress thus inhibited from acts respecting religion, and the Executive authorized only to execute their acts, I have refrained from presiding even those occasional performances of devotion, practiced indeed by the Executive of another nation as the legal head of its church, but subject here, as religious exercise only to the voluntary regulations and discipline of each respective sect.” Thomas Jefferson quoted in, **Thomas Jefferson’s “One Directional Wall.”**, p. 3.

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