



An initiative of WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

Does religious liberty really matter?

Dear Pastor,

The issue of religious liberty is always closely under the surface when it comes to current discussions of LGBTQ+ issues and related legislation in our culture and government.

Frankly, I believe we take this First Amendment protection too much for granted, just like we rarely think about the air we breathe—until something happens to make breathing difficult or impossible. Then all of a sudden air becomes a serious focus!

Make no mistake: religious liberty is under attack. It has been for some time, but the intensity of the attack continues to increase as LGBTQ+ activism aggressively pursues its agenda.

Freedom of religion is a great blessing. We ought not take it for granted. And yes, it really does matter.

There is a lot of confusion in the culture about freedom of religion. Freedom **OF** religion is not freedom **FROM** religion, nor is it just freedom of worship. If you would like for your church to be able to continue to freely teach and preach the entire counsel of God's Word – and I assume you do – then I encourage you to help your people understand why this issue is critically important. If you want your people to be able to fully and freely live out their faith 24/7, then they need to understand what religious freedom truly is and how to safeguard it.

The Founding Fathers included it in the very First Amendment for good reason. Fundamentally, that reason is that churches and citizens should be allowed to teach and preach freely, without interference from the government, and without the government dictating what speech is or is not allowed, especially religious speech. And we should all be able to live out our faith in the public arena, not just in our churches or homes (freedom of worship).

The accusation in the culture today is that freedom of religion is merely a cloak for protecting hate speech, and hate speech now includes any speech that disagrees with someone's life-style choices or that calls certain life-style choices sins against a holy God.

[HERE](#) is a short video that you could share that will help your church family understand why religious liberty is important.

Let's encourage one another to be good stewards of our religious liberty, first, by exercising it to share the good news of the gospel, and second, by understanding and defending it in every way we reasonably can. Caesar has no business dictating theology to churches and church-related ministries.

Have you read the First Amendment lately? Here it is; you might even want to print a copy of it in your bulletin or from time to time in your church communications. *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 peaceable to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

This law of our nation is a wonderful blessing. Religious liberty really does matter for us and for future generations as the Lord carries. Let's not take it for granted, and let's work even harder to take advantage of our privileges 'til Jesus comes.

In Christ,



Dave Lingle

WFC Church Ambassador

PS: WFC's next community event presentation of "2020 Vision: Contending for the Faith, Challenging the Culture" will be this Thursday, January 23rd, 6-8 p.m., at The Italian House in Janesville. We still have room. You can register by calling 888-378-7395, or online [HERE](#). Other "2020 Vision" events are also scheduled. Check them out [HERE](#).