

The First Amendment



First Amendment

“Congress shall make no law
respecting
an establishment of religion,

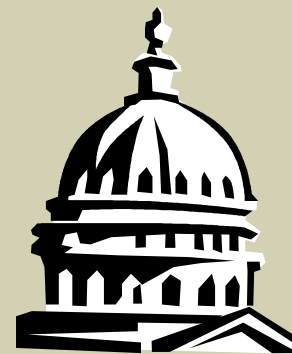
or prohibiting
the free exercise thereof.”

American civil religion with its recognition of a transcendent authority, has been described as **“Progressive Patriotic Protestantism.”**

Sacred Canopy - A generic god



Sectarian faiths



Public policies

In what sense was America founded as a “Christian Nation.”

- ✓ **Under a sacred canopy.**
- ✓ **Ethics shaped by Biblical moral law.**
- ✓ **Moral accountability to God.**
- ✓ **Divine calling and favor.**
- ✓ **Dignity and depravity of humanity.**

Matthew 22:21

**“Render unto Caesar the things
that are Caesar’s and unto God
the things that are God’s.”**

Support

Submit



Matthew 22:21

“Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and unto God the things that are God’s.”

Support

Submit



Separate

Scrutinize

Our National Motto

E PLURIBUS

Diversity
Enlightenment ideals
Freedom
Individuality
Personal choice
Personal rights
A democracy
The Bill of Rights
The House

UNUM

Unity
Classic & **Biblical values**
Order
Community
Common good
Social responsibility
A republic
The Constitution
The Senate

Individuality

E PLURIBUS

UNUM?



Individuality



Diversity



Rights

E PLURIBUS



Competition

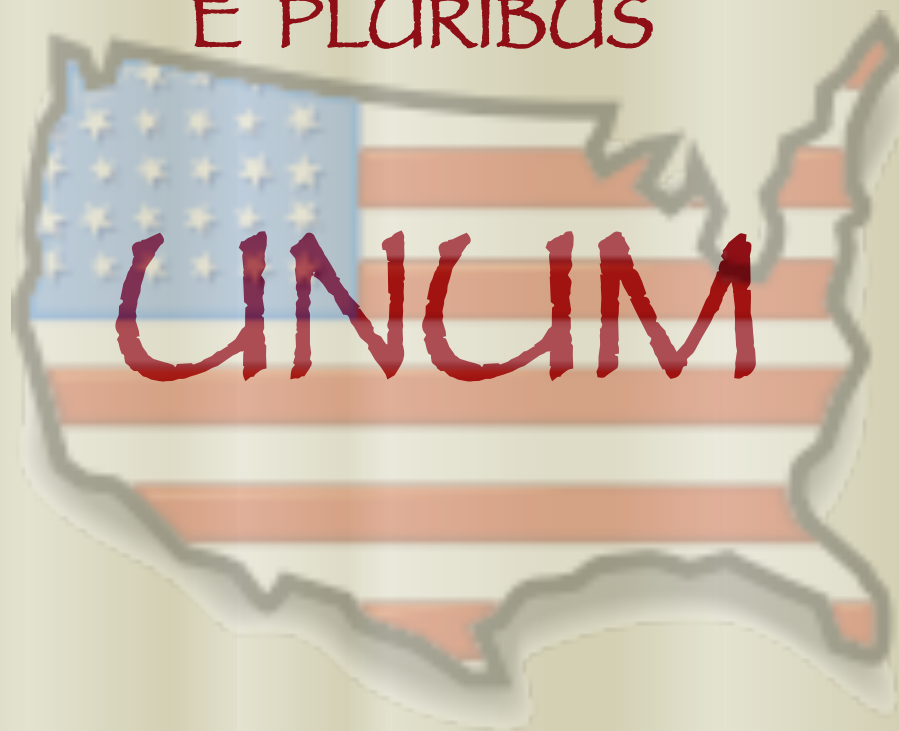


Freedom

UNUM?

Community

E PLURIBUS





Unity

Community

E PLURIBUS

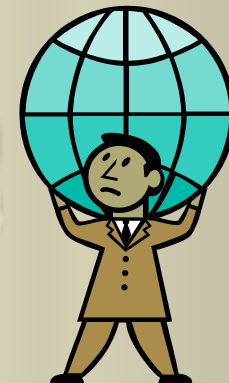


Conformity

UNUM



Cooperation



Responsibility

Four political philosophies

	Personal Moral issues	Public Economic issues
<i>Socialist</i>	<i>Control</i>	<i>Control</i>
<i>Liberal</i>	<i>Freedom</i>	<i>Control</i>
<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Control</i>	<i>Freedom</i>
<i>Libertarian</i>	<i>Freedom</i>	<i>Freedom</i>

Two challenges in applying Biblical ethics - for both the left and the right.



**Private
ethics**

**Within the
community
of faith**



**Public
ethics**

**Outside the
Community
of faith**

Two challenges in applying Biblical ethics - for both the left and the right.



**Private
ethics**

**Within the
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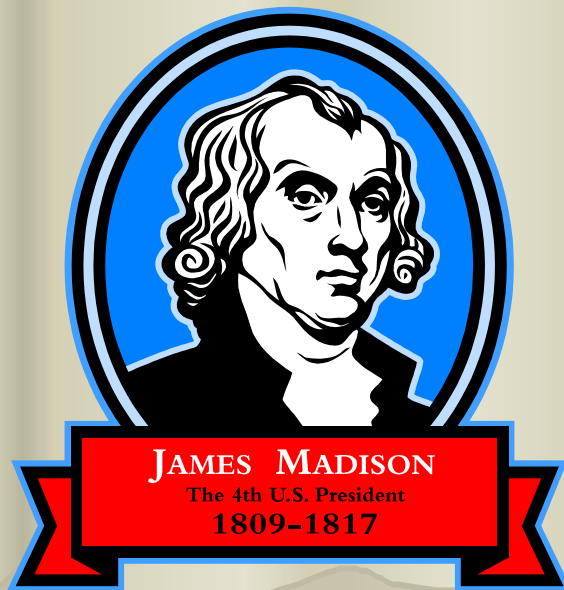


**Public
ethics**

**Outside the
Community
of faith**

The first amendment was adopted because

“people feared one sect might obtain a preeminence, or two combine together, and establish a religion to which they would compel others to conform.”



“It is supposed by some - especially intellectuals - that fundamental legal principles, whether of democracy or socialism, can survive without any religious or quasi-religious foundations on the basis of the proper political and economic controls and a philosophy of humanism. History, however, including current history, testifies otherwise: people will not give their allegiances to a political and economic system, and even less to a philosophy, unless it represents for them a higher, sacred truth.”

Harold Berman
Harvard Law School.

A recent Gallop pole of adult Americans revealed

95% believe in God or a Universal Spirit

87% pray to God

71% believe in life after death

70% believe Jesus is God

68% have church membership

48% have evangelized others for Christ

40% attend a place of worship every week

40% claim to be “born again”

38% say the Bible is the literal Word of God

**Individual
Rights**

**Public
Responsibilities**

Legislative Law

Constitutional Law

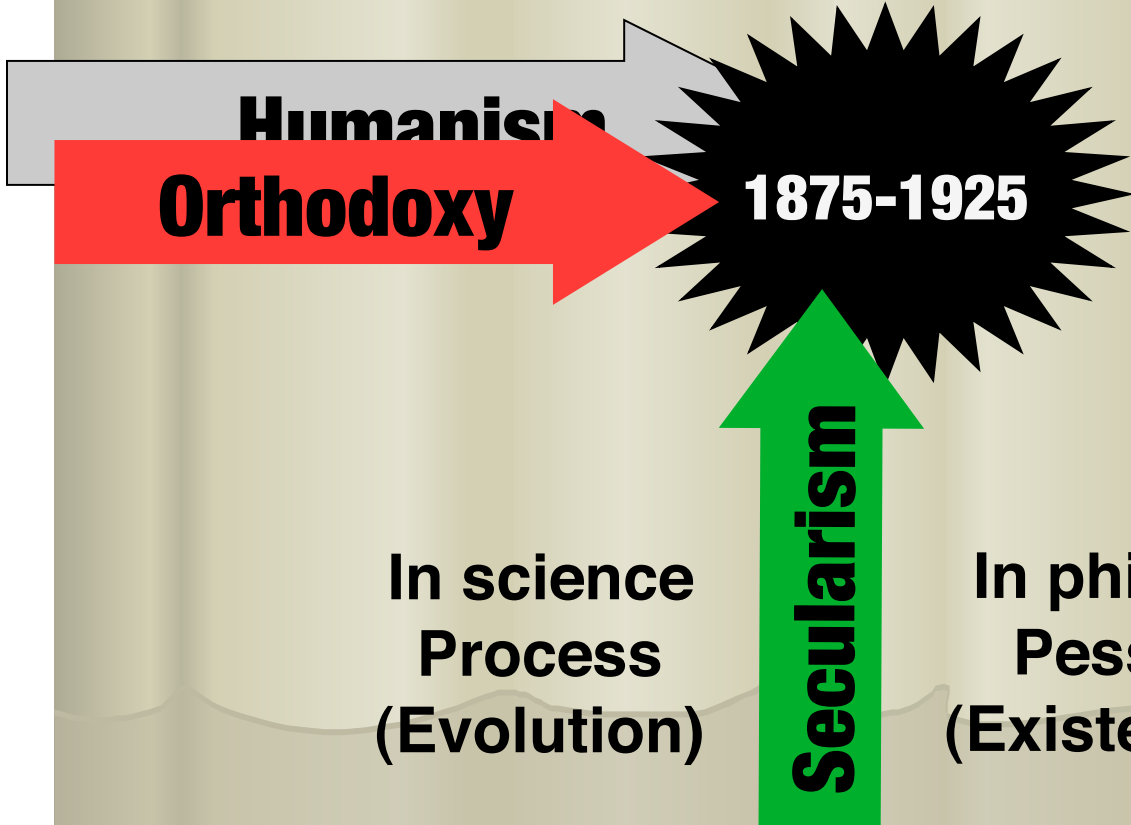
Fundamental Law

Nature

Bible

“Their (Christians) death was made a matter of sport; they were covered in wild beast’s skins and torn to pieces by dogs; or were fastened to crosses and set on fire in order to serve as torches by night. Nero had offered his garden for the spectacle and gave an exhibition in his circus, mingling with the crowd in the guise of a charioteer or mounted on his chariot. Hence there arose a feeling of pity, because it was felt that they were being sacrificed not for the common good, but to gratify the savagery of one man.”

Tacitus, Annals XV,44



Humanism

Orthodoxy

1875-1925

Secularism

**In science
Process
(Evolution)**

**In philosophy
Pessimism
(Existentialism)**

