

**Matthew 22:21**

“Render unto Caesar  
the things that  
are Caesar’s

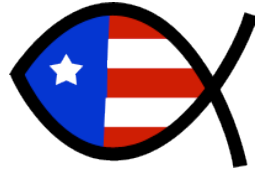


and unto God  
the things that  
are God’s.”

**Principle #1** *Adopt a clear understanding of  
the relationship between church and state.*

**Mistake #1**

Because God is Lord  
of all, the state is to be  
an expression of the  
Kingdom of God.  
(Zionism, Islam, Re-  
constructionist  
Christians)



**Observe:** *This theology comes more from the  
Old Covenant than the New.*

**Observe:** *History has taught us that the official  
union of church and state is tragic for both.*

**Mistake #2**

Because we are called  
to be separate from  
the world we stay clear  
of secular politics.  
(Anabaptist Christians,  
most cults)



**Observe:** *In a democracy, “we the people”  
are the government and “rendering to  
Caesar” means responsible involvement.*

**Observe:** *We must be both in and not of the  
world.*

**Mistake #3**

Because church and  
state are separate  
God is excluded from  
the public square.  
(Modern secularists,  
some liberal  
Christians)



**Observe:** *Common private and personal values  
are the basis of public and common values.*

**Observe:** *Separation of church and state does  
not mean separation of values and state.*

**Correct View #4**  
**Christians have  
dual citizenship.**

  
Citizens of the  
Kingdom  
of God

  
Citizens of the  
World of  
humanity

  
Citizens of the  
Country of  
residence



**Observe:** *We must respect the obligations  
and limits of both.*

**Observe:** *There will be overlaps and conflicts  
that require wisdom in resolving.*

**Principle #2**

*Appeal to common sense or “general  
revelation” when addressing public policy.*



**General Revelation**



**Special Revelation**

**Principle #3**  
**America was founded**  
**as a “Christian nation” only in the broadest**  
**sense that it was assumed to be:**

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

**But wasn't the Mayflower Compact an overtly Christian document?**

*“Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith . . .”*

- The **Mayflower Compact** with its strong **Christian language** reflected the old worldview that came to America from Europe, a view that the founding fathers of the Revolution deliberately set out to counter.

*The name of god known by sundry names are understood, the great subjects of our devotion, Lord King James by y grace of god, of great britaine, france & ireland king defender of faith, or having undertaken for y glory of god and advance ment of christian religion, and service of our best & country, a voyage to plant y first colony in y northwestern parte of virginia, for y better & more safe settling of y same, we y undersigned, being our selves separatist from y church of england, doe hereby publiclye declare & ordeine, a covenant betwixt ourselves, that we shall in things most neede & convenient for y generall good of y colony, doe with one voice all due submission and obedience, to such order of us hereunder subscribed, one named ad. cap. with y rest of y names of y signers of our sovereigne Lord king James of England, France & Ireland, by righte and of Scotland & fifth fourth, his sonne, 1620.*

**Free Masonry**  
**(more than Orthodox Christianity)**  
**was the model.**

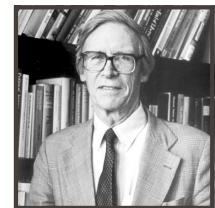
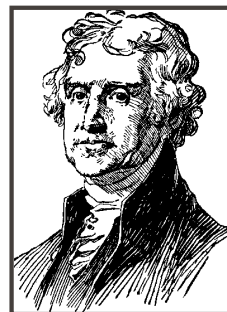
- The Free Mason's emphasis on Enlightenment Ideals with religious tolerance was at the heart of **American Civil Religion** that some described as **Progressive Patriotic Protestantism**.



NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM  
 “A new order of the ages”

Most presidents have been Masons as were many of the founding fathers of America.

- **Thomas Jefferson** called this sacred canopy “**general religion**” (the general creed that distills values common to all sects, in all religions, from all cultures).



- John Rawls spoke of an “**overlapping consensus**” that was shared by all religions and philosophies.



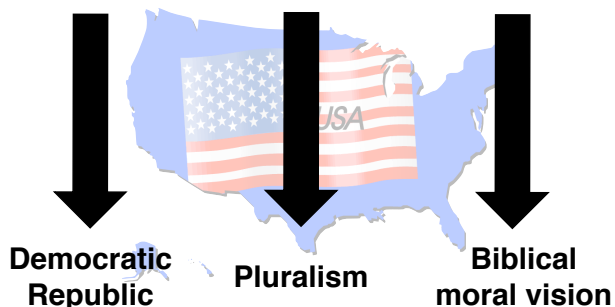
**Classic model**



**The Enlightenment**

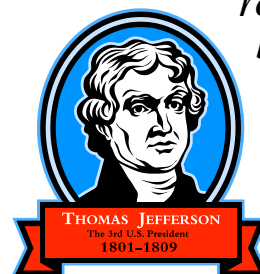


**Puritan Christian values**



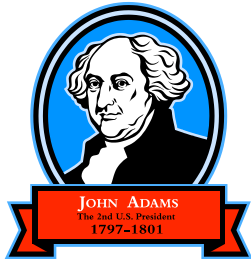
**Americans need to consider**

*“Can the liberties of a nation be sure when we remove their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people, that these liberties are the gift of God?”*



## Americans are to recognize that

*“Our constitution was made only for a moral and a religious people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other.”*



- The East entrance to the Supreme Court Building depicts Moses as the supreme law giver.



- On the doors (both inner and outer) of the Supreme Court and above the Bench of the Chief Justice, are displays of the Ten Commandments.



- The Ten Commandments on the floor of the National Archives.



### Principle #4

*The spirit of democratic capitalism as critical to American cultural - political health.*

Without it -



- Democracy becomes the **manipulation** of the masses by a clever few .
- Capitalism becomes the **exploitation** of the poor and weak by the rich and powerful.
- Pluralism becomes the **dignifying of every whim & passion** as an expression of human creativity.

• **E Pluribus** swallows up **Unum**.

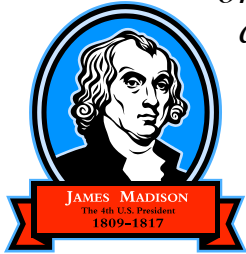
### The First Amendment

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof . . .”



## 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.”*



## The truth behind the “separation of church and state.”

### Lessons from European history

- Union of any one religious sect and state government was devastating to both.

### Lessons from “faith” systems

- A common “faith” worldview or “general religion” is unavoidable.

### Lessons from “American history”

- A common “faith based” world view is a vital and necessary part of the American system.

- Religious (transcendent authority) not only should, but must, be **recognized and respected in the public square** of 20th century American life because:

1. It was the conviction (assumed world and life view) of the framers of the American Republic.
2. It still is the conviction of the vast majority of American citizens.
3. It is a practical necessity for democratic capitalism and a public social ethic in a free society.

- The First Amendment makes a distinction between **any one religious sect** and the state.
- **Secularism represents a form of religion** in that it is ground in a faith world and life view.

## The American model (between England and France)



Union of one  
Religious sect  
and the state

Separation of  
generic Religion  
from public life

## How should Christians view their responsibility to the state?

- **Alien Ambassador:** The teaching of Jesus and the Apostles seldom addresses the change of social political systems but rather calls us to a better hope (1 Peter).
- **Patriotic humility:** The American system may work better than the alternatives but it was never “a Christian nation” and started as a rebel state of individual rights.
- **Government of and by the people:** We owe Caesar our voice, virtue, and vote.
- **Take politics seriously but not too seriously:** Political success apart from the Kingdom postpones the Kingdom.
- **Vote the interests of love for the human race:** Loving those God loves does not stop with Americans.
- **Vote and pray for wise leaders:** Party affiliation or Christian confession should not be the only or primary concern.

- **Don't vote on the basis of a single issue:** Wisdom is the ability to make the best decision when faced with no perfect options.
- **Appeal to common sense:** Politics in a pluralistic, fallen society cannot be addressed as a church.
- **Vote the long-term, big picture, good for the powerless:** Those with power are called to speak for those without it.
- **Vote to preserve the human dignity and rights of all people:** Discern but do not discriminate.
- **Speak the truth in love:** Be a civil servant.
- **Exercise a lot of humility:** Be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger.
- **Demonstrate a spirit of Shalom:** Be a peace maker not an divisive, arrogant, angry, idealist.