

The Attackers: Jesus Distinguishes between Church & State; the Constitution's 1st Amendment; the "Wall of Separation" & *Everson v. Board of Education*; No Wall in the 1st Amendment, only the Government Is Restricted; Free Exercise Can Flourish Only when There Is Law and Order: Russell Kirk: "Order necessarily precedes justice & freedom"

Matthew 22:21 - They said to Him, "Tiberius's." Then He said to them, "Pay back to Tiberius the things which are Tiberius's; and pay back to God the things which are God's!" (EXT)

1. Jesus made a clear distinction between the religion of Judaism and the state of Rome. Our Constitution mentions religion in its First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."
2. This clause is a guarantee that the government could not establish one particular religion as the State religion, nor could it prohibit the free exercise of any religion.
3. For the Long March to be successfully orchestrated by the Dark Side, in order to conquer this nation, it is imperative that the "free exercise clause" be diminished and ultimately eliminated.
4. To accomplish this objective, it became necessary to find a means of suppressing free exercise. The opportunity arose in 1947 when the Supreme Court heard the case of *Everson v. Board of Education*.
5. The case dealt with students in a Catholic School being provided transportation to their school at public expense. A New Jersey taxpayer's argument against this held that this policy was unconstitutional and it was heard by the U.S. Supreme Court.

6. The issue that was debated was the “establishment clause” which was referenced by Justice Hugo L. Black in his majority opinion: “In the words of Jefferson, the clause against establishment of religion by law was intended to erect “a wall of separation between church and State.”¹
7. This phrase was contained in a letter written by President Thomas Jefferson to the Danbury, Connecticut, Baptist association on January 1, 1802. In it, Jefferson assures the Baptists that the First Amendment’s “religion clause” built “a wall of separation between Church & State.”
8. The problem is that the First Amendment mentions no “wall of separation.” Its prohibition is against the federal government establishing a national religion while permitting all followers of each religion to enjoy the free exercise of it.
9. The First Amendment builds no wall; it places restraints only on the national government. A wall places restrictions on both the State *and* the Church.
10. The “wall of separation” clause has been used in several subsequent Supreme Court decisions regarding the relationship between government and religion.
11. In addition, the Fourteenth Amendment has expanded the original intent of the Bill of Rights – composed by the States to deny power to the federal government – to apply also to the States.
12. This prohibits the States from supporting religious institutions with tax money which was not the original intent of the First Amendment. States were free to prohibit this, e.g., Virginia in 1763.²

¹ Hugo L. Black, “Opinion of the Court,” *Everson v. Board of Education of the Township of Ewing*, 330 U.S. 1 (1947).

² Virginia’s resistance to taxation for church support was crystallized in the famous “Parsons’ Cause” argued by Patrick Henry in 1763.

13. Presently, no State's tax monies may be used to support any religious institution nor can any religious speech occur on or in any tax supported areas or buildings.
14. Yet we are on the verge of having public money used to supply medical insurance to the employees of the Catholic Church's religious organizations. Some of what is to be "supplied" is in conflict with the church's doctrinal standards. The Wall has doors when the attackers decide to open one.
15. There was no "wall of separation" between synagogue and Empire in the first century. Jesus supported the arrangement by commanding individual Jews to fulfill their responsibility to the state which provided them freedom to exercise their religion.
16. The Jews openly and freely celebrated their feast days every year and worshipped as they pleased in Jerusalem and in synagogues throughout Palestine.
17. Until Christ personally returns to the earth, i.e., until the Second Advent, there can be no bona fide union between church and state. There will be in the Millennium and that is because of the personal reign of Christ.
18. In the meantime, two kingdoms coexist, operating in their respective spheres. The first is the state, divine institution #4, ordained by God for the maintenance of law and order, and the environment of freedom to permit the church the opportunity for maximum evangelism and application of the Word.
19. The state exists in order to curtail internationalism. There should be a large number of national entities, and for those that allow it there can be maximum missionary activity from the client nation.
20. The gospel can be taken freely to these nations and the people have freedom to respond: they can say yes or no.

21. Remember that Satan is the ruler of this world and internationalism is a satanic strategy. Nationalism is designed by God to make it possible to evangelize the human race in any generation.
22. The second entity is the Church, the spiritual kingdom of all who are born again.
23. When a political entity does not support the principles of divine institution #4 and imposes limitations on or the elimination of free exercise of religion, then the believer must choose for God rather than man.
24. In this way when the Church and the State can't coexist – when the State's prohibits free exercise in any way – the believer must take a stand for truth by continuing to emphasize evangelism and Bible doctrine.
25. This does not include armed resistance except toward mobs and bandits who threaten one's home and hearth.
26. In His answer, Jesus clearly defines Christian responsibility to God as well as to State. One's personal responsibility to State includes such things as taxation, military service, voting, declaration of Bible doctrine, disseminating information which has divine viewpoint.
27. The Church should support good government, it should oppose policies that are anti-biblical and support those that do by means of their vote, but the Church must never become the government.
28. If Jesus had answered the question of verse 17 by either yes or no, He would have been trapped by taking a false position.
29. Again, the true answer lies in the declaration of Bible doctrine. In declaring the answer Jesus did not condone the evil practices of the Roman Empire, neither did He declare the permanence of the Roman Empire, but rather He condoned the principle of divine institution #4.

30. The free exercise of religion can only be free when it functions within a system of law and order that includes prohibitions against any limitations imposed by the State with regard to a given organization's doctrine and beliefs.
31. To quote the Honorable Justice Hugo LaFayette Black from his majority opinion in *Everson v. Board of Education*, "No person can be punished for entertaining or professing religious beliefs or disbeliefs."
32. All our Lord did was "entertain and profess." He never challenged the Roman system of law and order. He understood divine institution #4 which can only function from a system of order.
33. I have mentioned to you before but suggest that it bears repeating an excerpt on this subject from Russell Kirk's *The Roots of American Order*:

The good society is marked by a high degree of order, justice, and freedom. Among these, order has primacy: for justice cannot be enforced until a tolerable civil social order is attained, nor can freedom be anything better than violence until order gives us laws.

Once I was told by a scholar born in Russia of how he had come to understand through terrible events that order necessarily precedes justice and freedom. He had been a Menshevik,³ or moderate Socialist, at the time of the Russian Revolution. When the Bolsheviks⁴ seized power in St. Petersburg, he fled to Odessa, on the Black Sea, where he found a great city in anarchy. Bands of young men commandeered street-cars and clattered wildly through the heart of Odessa, firing with rifles at any pedestrian, as though they were hunting pigeons. At any moment, one's apartment might be invaded by a casual criminal or fanatic, murdering for the sake of a loaf of bread. In this anarchy, justice and freedom were only words. "Then I learned that before we can know justice and freedom, we must have order," my friend said. "Much though I hated Communists, I saw then that even the grim order of Communism is better than no order at all. Many might survive under Communism; no one could survive in general disorder."⁵

³ "Menshevik [minority]: a member of a wing of the Russian Socialist Democratic party before and during the Russian Revolution believing in the gradual achievement of socialism by parliamentary methods in opposition to the Bolsheviks" (*Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed., s.v.: "Menshevik").

⁴ "Bolshevik [majority]: a member of the extremist wing of the Russian Socialist Democratic party that seized power in Russia by the Revolution of November 1917. COMMUNIST. "Communist: a member of a Communist party or movement; one held to engage in left-wing, subversive, or revolutionary activities" (*ibid.*, s.v.: "Bolshevik," "Communist").

⁵ Russell Kirk, *The Roots of American Order*, 1st ed. (La Salle, IL: Open Court, 1974), 6-7.

34. It is the order provided by the Roman Empire that enabled Jesus to successfully complete His public ministry. He submitted to both Jewish and Roman authorities and, when arrested, although innocent He did not offer a defense.
35. His response to the attackers was irrefutable logic. Unsuccessful in their attempt to trap Jesus and amazed by His answer both the theologians and the politicians turned and went away:

Matthew 22:22 - And hearing this, they were amazed, and leaving Him, they went away. (NASB)