

STATEMENT OF RELIGIOUS CONVICTION

REASONS WHY PARENTS SHOULD EDUCATE THEIR OWN CHILDREN;
and
WHY ONE SHOULD NOT REQUIRE GOVERNMENT APPROVAL TO DO SO.

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The main issues to be argued should be whether government approval of a RELIGIOUSLY PROTECTED RIGHT is lawful, necessary, or right, over the objections of a believer; and whether the God-given obligation to educate one's child is a religiously protected right.

Divided into its parts, the questions are:

1. May government require a license or restrain the exercise of the First Amendment Right to FREE EXERCISE OF RELIGION?
2. Is government approval even necessary if the parents are fulfilling their religious and God-given responsibility to train up their children as the word of God commands?

The assertion is:

OUR RELIGION, RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, AND CONSCIENCE DEMAND THAT PARENTS TRAIN UP THEIR OWN CHILDREN, AND DO SO WITHOUT SEEKING APPROVAL FROM CAESAR; AND THAT THEY CAN AND DO FULFILL THEIR GOD-GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY, AND NEED NO GOVERNMENT APPROVAL.

ARGUMENT:

First of all, to fully understand the truth of God and the Lord Jesus Christ, one must have the Holy Ghost, who is sealed inside a believer when he believes:

In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, (Ephesians 1:13)

Jesus Christ alone is the Way of Salvation, and faith in Him alone, is what God has required for Salvation. God has said in His word:

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6)

and:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

and again:

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (Romans 10:9)

The Gospel of Salvation:

By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures, (I Corinthians 15:2-4).

And so, one must obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ to be saved, and with salvation the Holy Ghost is given. With the Holy Ghost, the things of God can be discerned, the commandments of God can be fulfilled, and through faith and His word we follow Him.

Because God lives in the Christian believer by means of the Holy Ghost, and because the Christian believer has the word of God (the Holy Bible); Christian parents are able to fully teach their children with God's help, successfully fulfilling every requirement which God has put upon them. As the Christian church of our Lord Jesus Christ has the promises and authority of Almighty God (Matthew 16:18; 28:18-20), and because the church is the "pillar and ground of the truth" (I Timothy 3:15); religious instruction of the parents and the children are complete, and they need no other beside our Heavenly Father to guide them, approve them, or in any way evaluate their responsibility.

God, in His word, requires the believer to provide the necessary things for his family, by the hand of God; and to be diligent in the training of children:

But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel. (I Timothy 5:8)

God knows and cares about His servants. Speaking of Abraham, God says:

For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him. (Genesis 18:19)

Psalm 1:6 says:

For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

II Timothy 2:19 says:

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

God instructs His servants how to deal with life and others:

Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will. (II Timothy 2:22-26)

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things. (Philippians 4:8)

Christian parents are fully equipped by God to completely carry out what He commands them to do. They require no overseer other than God the Father. God would be unjust to require of a man a thing which he cannot do. It is admitting that God is unjust to declare one's need of the State to fulfill the commandments of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

For if there be first a willing mind, *it is* accepted to that a man hath, *and* not according to that he hath not. (II Corinthians 8:12)

I think it is obvious to anyone with a sound mind that the State, specifically a school district, rarely follows God or the Bible, and that it usually functions in a manner as if it were not accountable to God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Born-again Christian parents, in contrast, understand that they are accountable to God and the Lord Jesus Christ, and should live their lives as led by God and the Holy Bible.

Religiously motivated parents, because of their responsibility to God and the Lord Jesus Christ, do not approve of government involvement in the training of their children.

The Bible instructs us what is the proper order of the family. It is as follows:

The child is under the responsibility and authority of the parents, hence the Fifth Commandment given in the word of God:

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. (Exodus 20:12)

The parents in turn, are under the responsibility and authority of God and the Lord Jesus Christ, and are responsible before God to train up their children according to God's law:

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. (Deuteronomy 6:7)

And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)

When the government State, which was instituted by God *after* He had instituted the family, attempts to dictate or require certain curricula, or assert their authority *BETWEEN* God and the parents, *OVER* God, or *BETWEEN* the parents and the child; those parents are obligated by God to resist.

We thank God and the Lord Jesus Christ because we live in this Great Country which has religious freedom. History shows this was due in a large part to some Baptists in the State of Rhode Island, over three hundred years ago, who were instrumental in the State's first charter.

We also, as children of God, understand our Biblical obligation to render unto Caesar that which is his, and to obey the just laws of the State that promote righteousness, peace, and the liberty we have from God (Romans 13:1-10).

These things we strive to do.

However, when in the course of life the State requires a child of God to submit to their authority against the dictates of God's word, that believer is bound by a higher Law -- the Law of God.

Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. (Acts 5:29)

God forbid that this should happen. We thank God for the high law of this Nation -- the U. S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, which public servants swear to uphold and defend, which is a higher law than those of the States.

The First Amendment of the U. S. Bill of Rights states in part:

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

In fact, even the history of Rhode Island is well-known for its righteous protection of religious freedom.

In the Constitution of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Article I of the Declaration of Rights states in part:

...and that every man shall be free to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience....

The Rhode Island charter, in force before the U. S. Constitution, from July, 1663 to May, 1843 -- the first State charter with religious freedom -- states in part:

Now, know ye, that we, being willing to encourage the hopeful understanding of our said and loyal subjects, and to secure them in the free exercise and enjoyment of all their civil and religious rights, appertaining to them, as our loving subjects; and to preserve unto them that liberty in the true Christian faith and worship of God, which they have sought with much travail, and with peaceable minds, and loyal subjection to our royal progenitors and ourselves, to enjoy; and because some of the people and inhabitants of the same colony cannot, in their private opinions, conform to the public exercise of religion, according to the liturgy, forms and ceremonies of the Church of England, or take or subscribe the oaths and articles made and established in that behalf; and for that the same, by reason of the remote distances of those places will (as we hope) be no breach of the unity and uniformity established in this nation: Have therefore thought fit, and do hereby publish, grant, ordain and declare, That our royal will and pleasure is, **that no person within the said**

colony, at any time hereafter shall be any wise molested, punished, disquieted, or called into question, for any differences in opinion in matters of religion, and do not actually disturb the civil peace of our said colony; but that all and every person and persons may, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, freely and fully have and enjoy his and their own judgments and consciences, in matters of religious concernments, throughout the tract of land hereafter mentioned, they behaving themselves peaceably and quietly, and not using this liberty to licentiousness and profaneness, nor to the civil injury or outward disturbance of others, any law, statute, or clause therein contained, or to be contained, usage or custom of this realm, to the contrary hereof, in any wise notwithstanding.

We therefore believe that Christian parents have the God-given and Constitutionally-protected liberty and right to exercise their religious faith, especially in the training of their children, and that any State control is a violation of the these parents' conscience and their obligation to God.

Again, we believe it is a free exercise of our religion for Christian parents to train up their children as they see fit before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, as they have that obligation; and to train them up in the way they should go, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord: without government license, approval, registration, or any other type of permission or control.

There was a time in this country when the some States legislated and controlled who could preach and teach the Bible. Believers called of God were required to seek government approval so that they could fulfill the Great Commission to religiously teach others. Our Nation's forefathers saw the folly of such things. Now it seems some would attempt to regulate the teaching of one's own children.

In Luke 11:23, the Lord Jesus Christ said:

He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth.

If government schools were "with" our Lord Jesus Christ we should have some common ground: they would sincerely understand the Biblical precept of the parents' responsibility to train their children according to the requirements of the word of God.

We contend that any institution without the Bible, prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the Law of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ being taught consistently and being interwoven in the fabric of the curricula; and which asserts authority to decide the affairs of Christian parents who teach their children over these parents' religious objection, is, according to the word of God, not with Christ, and therefore of necessity is against Christ (or anti-christ).

Christian parents cannot, with a right conscience before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, and to remain faithful to the word of God; allow such institutions to dictate, or in anyway control the training of their children.

It has been said that:

True education must be Christian and must consistently teach and present all subjects in a Biblical framework, interpreting all facts in the light of God's purposes in creation and providence, as revealed in the Scriptures, to the end that all things will find their ultimate purpose, meaning, significance, and relationship to the whole, in the transcendental, eternal, infinite, immutable, triune God of the Scriptures. AMEN.

George Washington (1732 - 1799), our First American President, 1788 - 1796, said:

It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.

Theodore Roosevelt (1858 - 1919), Twenty-sixth American President said:

Mere education without divine guidance, is like handing a gun to an irresponsible man. To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society. We plead for a closer, wider, and deeper study of the Bible, so that our people may be in fact, as well as in theory, "doers of the word, and not hearers only." No educated man can afford to be ignorant of the Bible. It is necessary for the welfare of the nation that men's lives be based on the principles of the Bible.

Christian parents' motives for the training of their children is first, love for God and the Lord Jesus Christ; then, an overwhelming desire to keep the commandments and precepts of the word of God; and then, extreme love and consideration for the welfare of their own children: to see them trained according to God's word, to be productive, God-fearing citizens, so that they can be best used of God for His honour and glory. Christian parents wish to give credit to God, and to Him *only*, for the bringing-up of their children; and know that He alone gets the glory for their child's success. God, in His ultimate wisdom, has chosen the child's parents to carry out the great responsibility of training their children.

It is understandable, considering the government schools' record, that the State should desire to seek the education of its citizens, and to regulate it; but in the case of Christian education, this is neither the will of God, nor of the Christian parents who object to such government interference.

Using the words of Nehemiah (2:20) we believe: the God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial in this work.

The logic of our argument proceeds:

1. God instituted the family before the government or the church.
2. God ordained marriage for the purpose of raising a godly seed.
3. God commands parents to instruct their children, to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; and for children to honour their parents, so that God's will can be accomplished.
4. God fully equips these parents to fulfill His commandments.
5. God's blessings are upon the household that obeys his commandments.
6. The State, as a Divinely ordained institution, has been nowhere in the Bible commanded to usurp this parental responsibility before Almighty God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. We therefore judge, believe and maintain that God and the Lord Jesus Christ have committed to the parents alone the right and obligation, over any other institution, to train and educate their children.
8. We also contend that this right is an essential part to our faith, and that it is also protected by the U. S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Education is religious, and the parents are accountable to God for the instruction of their children. They cannot therefore, in good conscience, come under the control of civil authorities with respect to the education of their children.

9. We also believe that our Great Nation provides for the free exercise of this right to freely worship God according to our consciences and the Holy Bible. (Supreme Court in 1965 stated, "The right to educate one's child as one chooses is made applicable to the States by the First and Fourteenth Amendments.")
10. Therefore it is not necessary or right for the State to dictate, oversee, approve, or in any way control the training given by Christian parents, as God has supplied all their need according to His riches in Christ Jesus.

We are indeed thankful to God and the Lord Jesus Christ because we live in this country, and that this government recognizes and protects our God-given rights; one of these rights being religious worship as one sees fit.

We rely first on our Lord Jesus Christ for His strength and protection. If it be His will, we pray that He would, by His grace, continue to protect Christian parents who educate and train their children according to the dictates and standards of the word of God, from the interference and attacks of outside agencies.

And, as one wise man once said, "I dare not change Christ's laws for the sake of avoiding difficulty." May God help us.

Lo, children *are* an heritage of the LORD:
and the fruit of the womb *is his* reward.

Psalms 127:3