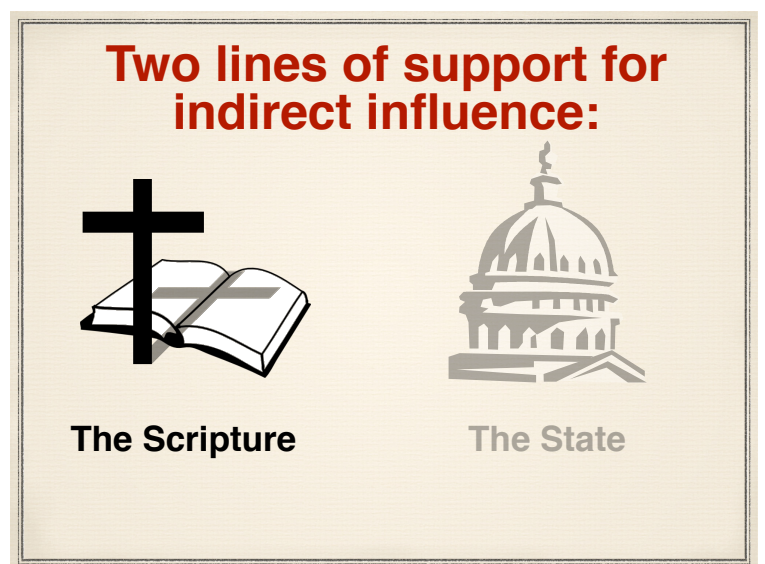


**How should the church relate to the state?**

<b>Social-political dominion</b>	<b>Social-political indirect influence</b>	<b>Social-political indifference</b>
Change from top-down & outside-in	Change from bottom-up & inside-out	Ignore and build an alternative system
Old Covenant Theocracy	New Covenant Democracy	New Covenant Separatist
New Wave Postmillennial Reconstructionist		Amish
<b>The least New Testament support</b>		<b>The most New Testament support</b>





### *Jeremiah 31:33*

“But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

- ✓ **The ethic of the New Covenant of God’s Kingdom is an *inside-out* renewal of the hearts of individual people who joyfully and willfully obey.**
- ✓ **It is an ethic that is not legislated politically, forced militarily, manipulated psychologically or coerced socially.**

### *Matthew 22*

“<sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees went and counseled together how they might trap Him in what He said. <sup>16</sup> And they sent their disciples to Him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that You are truthful and teach the way of God in truth, and defer to no one; for You are not partial to any. <sup>17</sup> Tell us therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to give a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?” <sup>18</sup> But Jesus perceived their malice, and said, “Why are you testing Me, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup> Show Me the coin used for the poll-tax.” And they brought Him a denarius. <sup>20</sup> And He said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” <sup>21</sup> They said to Him, “Caesar’s.” Then He said to them, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s; and to God the things that are God’s.” <sup>22</sup> And hearing this, they marveled, and leaving Him, they went away.”

### *Background*

- ✓ **This had to do with a Roman poll-tax that gave rise to the Zealot movement and eventually the destruction of the temple in AD 70.**
- ✓ **If Jesus sides with the Zealots, he will be arrested as an agitator. If he sides with the Romans, he will lose popular support.**
- ✓ **The Pharisees opposed the Herodians who favored paying the tax but joined forces with them to trap Jesus.**

### *Jesus’ response*

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

- ✓ **Jesus’ core concern was to challenge both groups to render to God what was due Him.**
- ✓ **Jesus (unlike the Zealots) did not feel that building God’s kingdom demanded disrespect for or disengagement from the prevailing political structure.**
- ✓ **We owe God our soul (as we bear His image), we owe Caesar the tax (as the coin bears his image).**

**denarius**  
**(a day’s wage)**



“Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s,”

**man is created**  
**in God’s image**



“and to God the things that are God’s.”

### *John 18:36*

“Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.”

- ✓ **If Christ’s kingdom is *not of this realm*, his people should not be fighting to protect him from abuse by this world.**
- ✓ **What does this suggest about the ethical agenda of the church in American politics?**



### 1 Peter 2

“<sup>13</sup> Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, <sup>14</sup> or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. <sup>15</sup> For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. <sup>16</sup> Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but *use it* as bondslaves of God. <sup>17</sup> Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.”

- ✓ **NOTE: This is Peter writing to those who are under Nero.**

### Romans 13:7

“Render to all what is due them; tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.”

## Questions

### Acts 5:29

“We must obey God rather than man.”

- ✓ **When the state tries to force you to disobey you willingly accept the consequences of obedience to God.**

### Matthew 6:10

“Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

- ✓ **The Kingdom will not be forced in heaven, it will be from the inside out and should be the same on earth.**

## Two lines of support for indirect influence:



The Scripture



The State

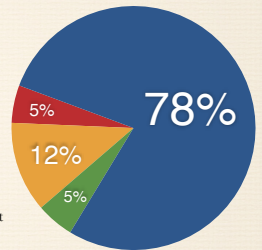
### 1. The U.S. government is of, by, & for “the people”, who are predominantly theists.

#### Religion in the USA

● Christianity ● Other religions  
● Unaffiliated ● Atheist / Agnostic

2007 Statistics

Pew Research - Religion & Public Life Project  
[religions.pewforum.org](http://religions.pewforum.org)



- A majority of Americans (95%) believe in a “higher power” (God) of some form.
- A majority of Americans report that religion plays a “very important” role in their lives, a proportion unique among developed countries.

### 1. The U.S. government is of, by, & for “the people”, who are predominantly theists.

#### Consider

- All members of the U.S. Supreme Court are theists.
- We have never had an atheist president.
- Very few (4) members of U.S. House or Senate were elected as atheists.
- All sessions of congress are opened with prayer by a chaplain paid by the state.

### 1. The U.S. government is of, by, & for “the people”, who are predominantly theists.

### 2. The history of the U.S. bears witness to a sacred theistic canopy expressed through the people.





The east entrance to the Supreme Court Building pictures Moses as the supreme lawgiver.



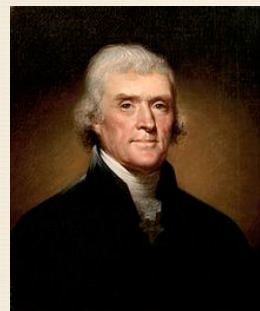
On the doors (both inner and outer) of the Supreme Court and above the Bench of the Chief Justice, are displays of the Ten Commandments!



In the chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives



On the floor of the National Archives



Thomas Jefferson

*"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."*



## ***What is the meaning of “separation of church and state?”***

- ✓ No one religious denomination or sect can dominate, as in Europe.
- ✓ Religion, when defined as a worldview or faith presupposition, cannot be avoided.
- ✓ The American system assumes by faith a “Biblical” worldview with respect to core values.

## ***“separation of church and state?”***

Separation of state from any one **religious sect** is not the same as separation from any notion of **transcendent spiritual authority**.

### **Sacred Canopy - a generic god**



## **The American model (between England & France)**

### **France**



**Separation of  
generic religion  
from public life**

### **England**



**Union of one  
religious sect  
and the state**

## **The American model (between England & France)**

### **France**



**Separation of  
generic religion  
from public life**



**Separation from  
any one religious sect  
but not from a generic  
sacred canopy**

### **England**



**Union of one  
religious sect  
and the state**

## ***America is a secular state with the soul of a church.***

- ✓ The Enlightenment set the rules of engagement with the world (reason over revelation).
- ✓ American pluralism was social, legal, & to a limited extent ideological.
- ✓ The Bible represented a common moral framework for the nation.
- ✓ Free Masonry is perhaps the best model for civil religion in America.

## ***Freemasonry***



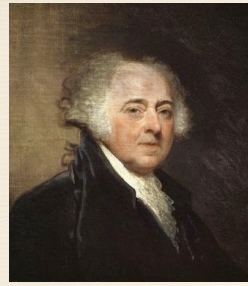
**eometry (reason)  
od (religion)  
nosis (righteousness)**

**The essence of which is  
rational, moral, religion.**

**virtue, courage, loyalty, prudence,  
truthfulness, compassion, etc.**

### State support for limited investment:

1. The U.S. government is of, by, & for "the people", who are predominantly theists.
2. The U.S. founding documents assume a sacred theistic canopy expressed through the people.
3. The American system of democratic capitalism needs the personal inner discipline that the Christian Spirit inspires.



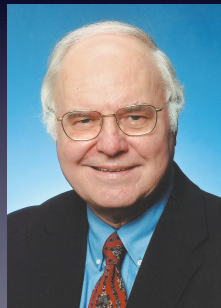
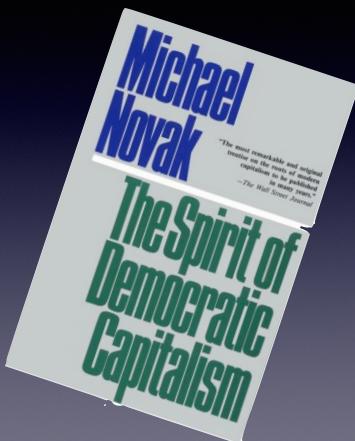
John Adams

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

youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YjntXYDPw44>

### The role of religion in America



Democratic  
Government

The American  
System

Capitalistic  
Economy



Judeo-Christian  
ethical spirit

Without a Biblical ethical spirit:

1.

Capitalism becomes  
the exploitation of  
the poor by the rich.

Without a Biblical ethical spirit:

2.

Democracy becomes an  
endless litigation of rights  
or the marginalization of  
the minority by the  
majority.



Without a Biblical ethical spirit:

**3.**

**Pluralism dignifies  
every kind of  
divergence as a  
form of creativity.**

