



1 Peter 2:13-17 Acts 4:18-20
 Obey every authority to which you are subject as to the Lord.



2. Know the Kingdom purpose of religious liberty
 We can live out the Kingdom purpose in our centers

1. Understand what religious liberty means:
 Religious liberty is rooted in human dignity.

No individual or group of individuals has the authority to deprive another individual of his or her right to the free exercise of religion, as warranted by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

1. Freedom of religion
 Right to free belief and expression of belief.
 Right to worship and practice religion in freedom.
 Right to participate in religious activities.
 Right to be free from religious persecution and discrimination on the basis of religion.

Use moral and legal principles to inform moral and legal decisions regarding human dignity.

2. Freedom of conscience
 Right to hold and express moral and ethical beliefs.
 Right to participate in religious activities.
 Right to be free from religious persecution and discrimination on the basis of religion.

Free speech, association, and belief rights that are not subject to government action.
 Government cannot force you to believe or act in a certain way.

Religious:
 Government cannot force you to believe or act in a certain way.
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2. National and Religious Freedom Library
 Encouraging religious liberty for all.

No one is a citizen of the United States unless he or she is a citizen of one of the 50 states or the District of Columbia.

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★ ONWARD ★

**ENGAGING THE CULTURE
WITHOUT
LOSING THE GOSPEL**

highpointchurch.org/onward ★ Based on the book by Russell Moore

★ RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ★

WEEK 5

1 Peter 2:13-17

Obey every authority.

Acts 4:18-20

We cannot obey your authority.

Mark 12:16-17

They brought the coin, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. 17 Then Jesus said to them, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." And they were amazed at him.

2000 years of iterations...

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2000 years of iterations...

Persecution (30-311)

Nominalism (313-700)

Benedictines/Monastics

Investiture Fights (11th-12th Cen)

Magna Carta (1215) **Reformation** (1525)

Free Churches (1600's)

Great Awakening, Revolution and Founding of America
(1730-1790)

Civil Rights (1780-1990's)

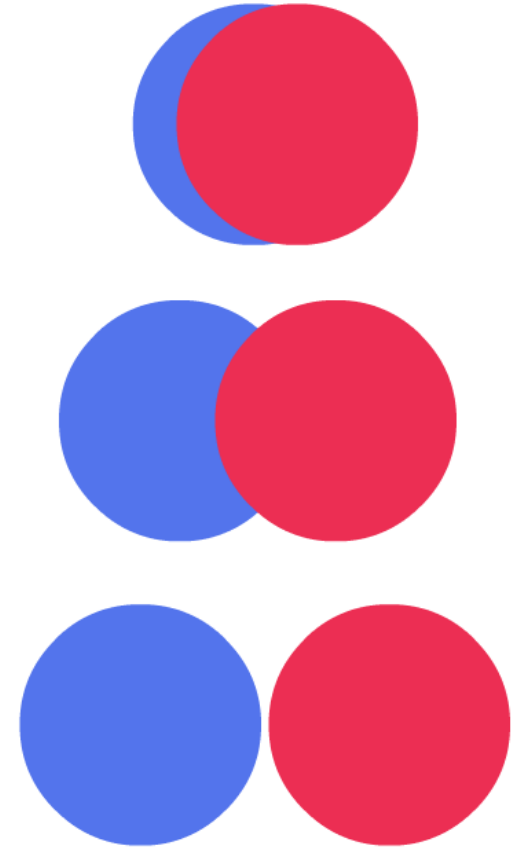
Post-consensus pluralism
(2000-?)

Ours may be as complicated a season

Jesus: "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."

"Two Spheres" Theology:

The spheres of church and state are separate and need not be in conflict when they maintain their God-appointed purpose.



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Ours may be as complicated a season

(2000 :)

Ours may be as complicated a season
as any of them.

principle:

First principle:

Religious Liberty is a mandate of human dignity and the Kingdom

...that no power,
including Government,
has authority to diminish.

We need to do three things:

- 1. Understand what religious liberty means**
- 2. Defend and maintain religious liberty**
- 3. Know the kingdom purpose of religious liberty**

1. Understand what religious liberty means:

Religious liberty is rooted in human dignity.

The Christian theological version would be:

Declaration of Independence:

“endowed by our creator with certain inalienable rights, that *among these* are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”



Religious liberty is rooted in human dignity.

The Christian theological version would be:

“Life, Liberty and the pursuit of godliness and virtue.”

1 Timothy 2:1-4

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers,
intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people--
2 for kings and all those in authority. that **we may live**

“Life, Liberty and the pursuit of godliness and virtue.”

1 Timothy 2:1-4

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people--
2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior,
4 who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Our **moral** and **spiritual** lives are our most consequential and defining characteristics.

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1 Timothy 1:3-5

As I urged you...command certain people not to
false doctrines any longer 4 or to devote themselves
to myths and endless genealogies. Such things

Our **moral** and **spiritual** lives are our most consequential and defining characteristics.

1 Timothy 1:3-5

As I urged you...command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer 4 or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God's work-- which is by faith. 5 The goal of this command is love, which comes from a **pure heart** and a **good conscience** and a **sincere faith**.

If our hearts, consciences, and faith are the most consequential parts of us they must not be coerced

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heart** and a **good conscience** and a **sincere faith**.

If our hearts, consciences, and faith are the most
consequential parts of us, they must not be coerced
by us or the by State.

Therefore:

- Freedom of religion and conscience is essential

by us or the by State.

Therefore:

- Freedom of religion and conscience is essential to the human dignity of everyone.
- We must recognize and affirm the right to faith and conscience for everyone.



2. Defend and Maintain Religious Liberty

Standing biblically for liberty is godly.

We will face **morally illegitimate** actions
of **functionally legitimate** authorities.

3 clear biblical directions:

- 1. Obey** functionally legitimate authority
- 2. Prophetically question** moral illegitimacy

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of **functionally legitimate** authorities.

3 clear biblical directions:

1. **Obey** functionally legitimate authority
2. **Prophetically question** moral illegitimacy
3. **Disobey** when obedience is a denial of conscience

Biblical Examples of disobedience:

2. **Prophetically question** moral legitimacy
3. **Disobey** when obedience is a denial of conscience

Biblical Examples of disobedience:

1. **Obadiah**: Prime minister of Israel, doing his duties while hiding prophets
2. **Exodus**: Midwives, rejected infanticide and lied to Pharaoh
3. **Daniel**: Serviced a pagan king for his good and the nation, yet disobeyed when he was told he had to stop praying for just 30 days.
4. **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**: Would not worship the statue of the king and state, and “asked” not to eat defiling food
5. **Peter and John**: Refused to stop preaching the Gospel
6. **Paul**: Acts 16, sought political justice when beaten without a trial

Christians have been at least moderately persecuted throughout our existence.

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- 1. Globally:** (Pers. Church: 11/20/16)
- 2. America:** fashionable talk / 133%

3. Know the kingdom purpose of religious liberty

We can live out the kingdom mission in our culture

Russell Moore:

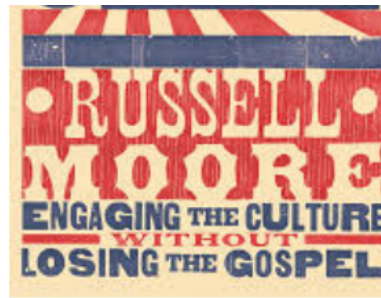


Russell Moore:

“Religious liberty is freedom *to carry out the mission of the church*, not to pursue the American dream in the style we choose without interference.”

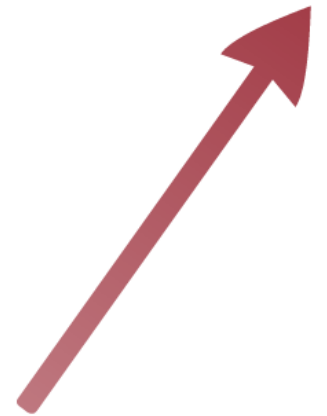


freedom to carry out the mission of the church, not to pursue the American dream in the style we choose without interference.”



We are free **so that** we can live freely according to conscience in pursuing godliness and holiness.

So that we can freely persuade people to become Christ's disciples.



We are free ***so that*** we can live freely according to conscience in pursuing godliness and holiness.

So that we can freely persuade people to become Christ's disciples.

So that we can learn how to be rulers of a kingdom of faith, freedom, worship, virtue and conscience.

Matthew 28:18 - 20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "***All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.***

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...



So that we can freely persuade people to become Christ's disciples.

So that we can learn how to be rulers of a kingdom of faith, freedom, worship, virtue and conscience.

1 Corinthians 6:2-3

Or do you not know that the Lord's people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!