

## Debunking the “Separation of Church and State” Myth

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

When liberals rally against school prayer, they repeatedly refer to the United States Constitution, proclaiming the First Amendment asserts religion and government remain separate. This statement is entirely false.

The phrase “separation of church and state” is never mentioned in the U.S. Constitution.

Contrary to popular belief, this oft-cited slogan was not written by our Founding Fathers. Rather, the term is believed to have been coined in a letter written by Thomas Jefferson in 1802.



But Jefferson didn't use the phrase for the prayer-banning agenda it is used today. Instead, he used it to explain that the First Amendment was intended to prevent the government from interfering with people's religious practices (i.e. – banning prayer in school).

## Prayer

*As our nation and families head into an uncertain future with a new, inexperienced president at the helm, we find comfort in the words of Deuteronomy 31:6:*

*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.*

*We put our faith, as always, in God, and pray America once again returns to the path of the moral and righteous.*

*Amen.*

FOR AMERICA



## ACLU Successfully Bans Prayer in Florida School District



Under the pretext of “separation of church and state”, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) continues to discriminate against Christians and manipulate the law to suppress religious freedom. Alarming, this bullying and bigoted practice was once again condoned and encouraged in federal court.

In January, a federal judge ordered Florida's Santa Rosa County School District to stop promoting religion and prayer in the classroom and during school events. The ruling stemmed from a lawsuit filed by the ACLU on behalf of two anonymous students at Pace High School. The prohibited acts mentioned in the ACLU suit included holding middle-school concerts in churches and teachers offering biblical interpretations during student meetings.

Already burdened by financial constraints, the school district filed an Admission of Liability rather than face the enormous costs of a drawn-out legal battle with the ACLU. As a result, Santa Rosa School District employees are now banned from activities like holding school-sponsored events in churches, discussing personal religious beliefs with students and praying at graduation ceremonies. The lawsuit creates an environment of fear, where Christian faculty members and students are intimidated into hiding their beliefs for fear of suspension or dismissal.

In an article about the prayer ban published in the Pensacola News Journal, Tammy Morgan, who lives in the Pace school district, was quoted as saying: “I've always loved that we could pray at school. (The injunction) saddens me. It's a shame.” Instead of outlawing prayer, Morgan offered a more practical solution: if people don't want to pray in school, they can simply choose not to participate. Unfortunately, such good sense does not extend to the ACLU or the federal courts.

## Your donation dollars at work

### Rediscovering God in America



Christianity played a pivotal role in our nation's history and will be more important than ever in the years to come. That's why we have aligned with Citizens United Foundation to distribute *Rediscovering God in America*, a new film based on the bestselling book of the same name by Newt Gingrich. The film is a walking tour led by Newt and his wife, Callista, which takes viewers through the great monuments of Washington, D.C.

### Protect the Pledge



When atheist Michael Newdow and the Freedom from Religion Foundation unleashed a new lawsuit against Congress to remove the words "Under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Committee for Faith and Family had to help protect America's time-honored tradition. If Newdow is victorious, it could lead to more lawsuits and a possible ban of God's name in any public mention. To show Congress that the American people support the pledge, NCFF started the Petition to Protect Under God. With the

help of our members, we are lobbying the Congress to defend the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Bibles for Troops



America's finest sons and daughters are fighting for our freedom, and in their time of need NCFF is bringing to them God's good word. In the Bibles for Troops Campaign, NCFF will distribute Bibles to thousands of members of the U.S. Armed Services overseas. We are committed to sending 5,000 Bibles to military personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan to ensure our bravest citizens are armed with God's promise of strength and protection.

### Mother's Day luncheon at Fort Drum



NCFF is bringing its message of support for the troops and their families to Fort Drum in May, when we will host a Mother's Day luncheon at Fort Drum for all the moms whose husbands are serving overseas.

## For the record: family values in the '08 elections

Where do the candidates stand on the issues that hit close to home? If you're a values voter, you need to know how the candidates have voted in the past on the issues that matter to you. Here's a breakdown of one issue that is near and dear to NCFF, abortion.

#### CLINTON:

Voted NO on notifying parents of minors who get out-of-state abortions

Voted NO on criminal penalty for harming unborn fetus during other crime

Voted NO on banning partial birth abortions except for maternal life

Rated 100 percent by NARAL, indicating a pro-choice voting record

#### OBAMA:

Rated 100 percent by NARAL on pro-choice votes

Voted NO on banning partial birth abortion

Voted NO on notifying parents of minors who get out-of-state abortions

Rated 0 percent by the National Right to Life Committee

#### MCCAIN:

Voted YES on barring HHS grants to organizations that perform abortions

Voted YES on notifying parents of minors who get out-of-state abortions

Voted YES on criminal penalty for harming unborn fetus during other crime

Voted YES on banning partial birth abortions.

Voted YES on maintaining ban on Military Base Abortions

Voted YES on banning partial birth abortions

Voted YES on banning human cloning

Rated 0 percent by NARAL, indicating a pro-life voting record

# ACLU: At war with the American family

By Michael Reagan, Chairman



The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is at it again, attacking the American family by bashing abstinence-only education that teaches young people to wait until they are married to have sex.

According to the ACLU, “abstinence-only is a failed policy and is contrary to what most Americans want or need.” It goes on to claim that education that urges teens to wait until marriage promotes sexism, is inaccurate, discriminates against gay and lesbian teens and is a violation of the separation of church and state.

Contrary to popular belief, abstinence education programs teach more than just



Faith  Family

waiting until marriage to have sex. They teach about building self-esteem, developing values/character traits, formulating goals, making decisions, avoiding risky behavior, maximizing communication, strengthening relationships, understanding development and anatomy, preventing STDs, withstanding social and peer pressure, addressing consequences/self-control, resolving sexual conflicts, learning etiquette and manners, aspiring to marriage, understanding parenthood and medically-accurate condom/contraception failure rates. How are these messages discriminatory, homophobic or sexist?

The fact is that abstinence is still the only 100 percent effective method of preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Furthermore, 63 percent of people who have sex early in life regret the decision and 85 percent of parents promote abstinence to their children.

The ACLU also fails to mention that so-called comprehensive sex education programs are funded by some 25 federal programs at a rate of \$12 to every \$1 spent on abstinence.

This new action item from the ACLU is just another example of its effort to undermine Christian values that promote the sanctity of family in America. To learn more about the ACLU’s war on the fundamental rights and values of our nation, visit [www.acluthemovie.com](http://www.acluthemovie.com).

Sources: [www.aclu.com](http://www.aclu.com), [www.abstinence.net](http://www.abstinence.net), [www.cwfa.org](http://www.cwfa.org)