

Bill of Rights

Congress of the United States
began and held at the City of New York on
Wednesday the fourth of March one thousand seven hundred and eighty

Lutheran Christians in an increasingly hostile world

First Amendment

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Who gave you your freedom?

- “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
- “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

John 8:31,32 and 36

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants⁴ of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

1 Peter 2:16-17

President Harrison LW article 1-05-2015

Late in 1821, Rev. Frederick Schaeffer presided over the cornerstone laying of a new building for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Matthew in New York City. Afterward, he sent his homily to James Madison, the “Father of the U.S. Constitution,” and chief author of the Bill of Rights.

President Harrison:

James Madison writes:

It is a pleasing and persuasive example of pious zeal, united with pure benevolence and of a cordial attachment to a particular creed, untingered with sectarian illiberality. It illustrates the excellence of a system which, by a due distinction, to which the genius and courage of Luther led the way, between what is due to Caesar and what is due God, best promotes the discharge of both obligations.

President Harrison:

The “right hand” realm or kingdom is that of the Church. In this kingdom there is to be no coercion, no force, no corporal punishment. It is a kingdom ruled solely by the Word of God in service to the Gospel of Christ. “My kingdom is not of this world” (John 18:36). It is a kingdom whose glory is hidden in weakness, small numbers, persecution, reviling, etc. It makes no sense to reason whatsoever—things like “the resurrection of the body,” “baptismal regeneration,” “the body and blood of Christ,” in the Lord’s Supper, etc.

President Harrison:

- The “left hand” kingdom is temporal government. This kingdom, too, is established by God (Rom. 13:1–7). It flows from the Fourth Commandment (“Honor thy father and mother”). This kingdom operates not by revelation, but by reason or natural law. The Gentiles, “when they do the things of the law, demonstrate that the law is written on their hearts” (Rom. 2:14)

President Harrison:

- The governing authorities “do not bear the sword in vain” (Rom. 13:4). Temporal government is established by God for maintaining good order, peace, to thwart evil (by just war and other means), etc. When government forbids the Gospel, however, or commands us to act against a Christian conscience informed by the inerrant Word of God, then “we must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).

President Harrison:

When natural law or reason is functioning properly, it agrees with the Ten Commandments. In fact, the law “written on the heart” is the point of contact with the Law revealed in the Ten Commandments. That’s why the preaching of the Law hits home with people who don’t know Christ. God designed it that way as preparation for the Gospel! When it is commonly said that America was founded as a “Christian Nation,” that is only true in the sense that the overwhelming number of the founders were Christians, and that they recognized the benefit Christianity affords government.

The Realities of present day America:

Tim Goeglein who was in the “W” administration said this in a presentation at the 2015 March for Life:

“The millennials are the first generation in American history that is measurably losing its rights.”

Who would have thought???

- Abortion. Since 1972...57 million babies have been aborted.
- Legalization of same-sex marriage
- A redefining of the “establishment clause”.
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

Who would have thought???

Let me count the ways....

What do we do?

The Fourth Commandment.

Thou shalt honor thy father and thy mother [that it may be well with thee and thou mayest live long upon the earth].

What does this mean?—Answer.

We should fear and love God that we may not despise nor anger our parents and masters, but give them honor, serve, obey, and hold them in love and esteem

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. (1996). Concordia Triglotta English: The Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (electronic ed.) (541). Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing House.

Augsburg Confession XVI.

Article XVI: Of Civil Affairs.

1] Of Civil Affairs they teach that lawful civil ordinances are good works of God, and that 2] it is right for Christians to bear civil office, to sit as judges, to judge matters by the Imperial and other existing laws, to award just punishments, to engage in just wars, to serve as soldiers, to make legal contracts, to hold property, to make oath when required by the magistrates, to marry a wife, to be given in marriage.

Augsburg Confession XVI.

3] They condemn the Anabaptists who forbid these civil offices to Christians.

4] They condemn also those who do not place evangelical perfection in the fear of God and in faith, but in forsaking civil offices, for 5] the Gospel teaches an eternal righteousness of the heart. Meanwhile, it does not destroy the State or the family, but very much requires that they be preserved as ordinances of God, and that charity be practiced in such 6] ordinances. Therefore, Christians are necessarily bound to obey their own magistrates 7] and laws save only when commanded to sin; for then they ought to obey God rather than men. Acts 5, 29.

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. (1996). Concordia Triglotta English: The Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (electronic ed.) (51). Milwaukee, WI: NPH

How do we protect our churches?

- The LCMS handout about marriage.
- The SWD Convention speaker from the Alliance for Defending Freedom
- A new LCMS office on Capitol Hill.

Biblical Examples:

- Jonathan whose father was King Saul.
- Daniel.
- Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego.
- The 12 Disciples in Acts 4.

There will be a price
to pay.



Questions and Answers: