

# Cities of Earth and Heaven:

Christian Faith, Secular Government, and Religious Freedom

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## Parsing Religious Liberty: What Do You Know?

This spring, we will be looking at the theme of religious liberty in a historical context. As we take up this theme, let's inventory our understanding of the issue.

1. Which of the following would you classify as infringements of religious liberty?
  - Persecution directed at Christian believers who form communities that repudiate wealth and seek to live according to New Testament models.
  - Use of secular powers to protect a society from heretical views of Christianity.
  - Enforcement by city councils of allegedly biblical life style standards
  - Application of tax dollars to support a religious initiative.
  - Inclusion of religious instruction in public schools.
  - Suppression of expressions of free thinking and atheism.
2. During the 2nd and 3rd centuries after Christ, persecutions of Christians by the Roman emperors was ...
  - Massive and relentless.
  - Sporadic and localized.
  - Triggered by subversive activities planned by the churches.
  - Ineffective, since virtually no Christians renounced their faith under threat.
3. The persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire was ended ...
  - Because of the effectiveness of Justin Martyr's *Apology*.
  - By the vote of the Council of Nicea.
  - Because of the reprimand of Emperor Theodosius by St. Ambrose.
  - By order of the Edict of Milan.
4. Which of the following **was not** a target of a Christian military Crusade called by popes of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Centuries?
  - The Christian kingdom of Saxon England.
  - Islamic rule over Persia and the Arab Peninsula.
  - The Christian capital of the Byzantine Empire, Constantinople.
  - Christian reform sects who tried to live lifestyles modeled after the New Testament church.
5. In the aftermath of Martin Luther's challenge to the authority of the Roman Church ...
  - Princes of more than 200 German states chose for the people of their principalities whether they would remain Catholic or embrace Lutheran reform.
  - Holy Roman Emperor Charles V recognized the right of all of his subjects to choose their faith for themselves.
  - The Council of Trent placed limits on the authority of the Pope to determine what Christians should believe.
  - Divergent reform sects honored each other's rights to differ over theology, infant baptism, and separation from society into communes.

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6. The United States Constitution ...
  - Refers to God only twice.
  - Promises religious liberty to all Americans.
  - Mentions religion only once.
  - Establishes its authority thus: "In God we trust."
7. The 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution ...
  - Calls for the separation of church and state.
  - Guarantees the right of a religious majority to express its religious freedom in government.
  - Forbids Congress from passing laws that establish religion or that prohibit the free exercise of religious conscience.
  - Put an immediate end to linkages between churches and states of the new Union.
8. Which of the following **was not** a reason why Americans in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century called for separation of Church and State?
  - An American consensus had developed in which America as a whole recognized that religious initiatives should be strictly sequestered from any contact with institutions associated with government or taxes.
  - Thomas Jefferson wanted to extend the gap between government and religious sects further than virtually all other Americans did.
  - Nativist Protestants inordinately feared the influence of Catholicism and wanted to erect barriers that suppressed Catholic—but not Protestant—connections with government institutions.
  - A small minority of secularists sought to increase the gap between church and state as a way of minimizing religion's influence on society.
9. Which of the following **was not** an initiative of fundamentalist Christianity in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century?
  - Suppression of the teaching of the theory of evolution in public schools.
  - Prohibition of the production, importation, and sale of alcohol throughout the United States.
  - Partisan alignment with the Republican Party to elect a government reflecting a Fundamentalist agenda.
  - Aggressive opposition to anything suggestive of socialism or communism, including union movements and evangelicals who focused on the social gospel.
10. Which of the following **is not true** of the event which established Separation of Church and State as a constitutional principle?
  - It occurred in 1791 during the writing of the Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to the United States Constitution.
  - It was driven by a political movement associated with the Ku Klux Klan and other rabid anti-Catholic groups.
  - It was a response to a case in which tax money was applied to religious instruction associated with a public school.
  - It employed a key phrase that had never previously had any legal standing.