



Middleburg Memos

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Religious liberty has always been a Baptist _____ and a Baptist _____. Our commitment is to religious liberty for all peoples, not just for _____, because we believe that every human being is created in God's image and possesses full _____ and _____ granted by the _____, as well as full _____.

Religious liberty is not merely a gift of the U.S. _____ but a gift of God. The very fact that God created humans as _____ and _____ beings, possessing a moral conscience, indicated that God intends for His human creatures to be both _____ and _____.

Consider the following biblical principles...

People are set free by God's truth. _____

True freedom comes from Jesus Christ. _____

God should have first place in our allegiance. _____

The Christians primary citizenship is in heaven. _____

Religious liberty is not mere legal _____. Instead, it is the recognition that the very nature of humanity implies respect for this _____ and _____.

PLEASE REMEMBER: No government has the right to claim _____ over any individual's _____ in matters of _____ and _____.

The first sentence of this article reads: "God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it." This statement introduces a very important fact: We are not free from the _____ and _____ of God's Word but from the _____ and commandments of _____ that are in any way _____ to God's Word.

In other words, human beings are not really _____ (self-governing or totally independent). We all will one day answer to God for our _____, _____, _____, and _____.

Our modern culture increasingly sees humanity as fully autonomous, with every individual

_____ to _____ his or her own _____; however, this is not a biblical understanding of human _____.

Although the Bible charges Christians to respect governing authorities (_____), government has no right to demand _____—only God does (_____).

Baptists resist the idea of a _____ and have rejected the idea that the church should rely on the state to accomplish its gospel _____ and _____. NOTE: The modern idea generally described in the larger culture as the separation of church and state most often means an _____ of all religious belief and expression from the public square.

Baptists must insist that the church should be _____ of the state, but we must also maintain that the state must not be _____ to the church or to the free and full participation of _____—including Christians—in the _____ of the nation.

Christians must be _____ to bring their biblically informed understanding of moral truth of the nation's public policy debates as the _____ and _____ that Christ has commanded them to be (Matthew 5:13-16), even as they contend for full religious liberty for _____, whatever their faith.

Religious liberty requires that Christian citizens _____ the government and its laws. This means that Christians, like other citizens, must _____ and obey the laws of the state (_____).

The government has a _____ to _____, as well as a right and _____ to maintain _____ and to _____ its citizens; however, no government has the right to _____ the conscience or to _____ citizens because of their religious convictions.

Remember the following biblical principles...

We should submit to civil authorities and pay taxes (insofar as these are not contrary to God and His Word). _____

We should pray for civil authorities. _____

We should honor civil authorities. _____

Cross-References: *Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7, 24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1, 13; Philipians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.*