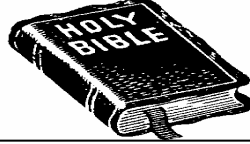


CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

227 A

THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



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PRIVACY & THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH & HOME

First Amendment, US Constitution: *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.*

- 1. Separation Of Church & State** The 1st Amendment envisioned that the federal government would exist separate from the influences of “state authorized” religion, thus separation of church and state. The framers did not envision prohibition of (a) prayer in public schools, (b) the mention of God in the Pledge of Allegiance, or (c) the depiction of anything related to God or the Bible from public property. (Prov 14:34) *“Righteousness _____ a _____: but sin is a reproach to any people.”* Secularists misconstrue the 1st Amendment as did the Devil by maligning (Mt 4) the Scriptures.
- 2. What Christians Should Want** We don’t want a re-visitation of The Church of England anymore than did our forefathers. We want true separation of church and state, not the present purging by liberal judges with a secular agenda. (Rom 13:1) *“Let _____ be subject unto the higher powers. For there is _____ but of God: the _____ are ordained of God.”*
- 3. Privacy & Freedom** Both are wonderful and should be defended zealously. The Bible is plain: (Gal 6:4-5) *“But let _____ man prove his _____ work---For _____ man shall bear _____ burden.”* Individualism is more unique in mankind than in any other species. Why? Man has an immortal spirit and is told (Phil 2:12), *“Work out _____ salvation.”* Each man is to have (1 Cor 7:2) *“his own _____”* and *“his own _____”* (1 Tim 5:8). Jesus treasured privacy and prayed alone many times. The price of freedom is eternal vigilance. Only in Jesus are we *“free indeed.”*
- 4. That Said---** It remains true that (Rom 14:7) *“none of us _____ to himself, and no man _____ to himself”* and that, in many instances, (Eccl 4:9-12) *“_____ are _____ than one.”* We are commanded to (Mt 5:16) *“let your _____ so _____ before men”* and warned about (Heb 10:25) *“not forsaking the _____ of ourselves together.”* There is a time and place for public fellowship; likewise for private reflection and rest (eg: Mk 6:31-32).
- 5. Church Is Church & Home Is Home** Exactly where public obligation to the brethren ends and where private considerations begin has oft been debated. One may scripturally do things in the home that cannot be done in the church and vice versa. Remember: Christians are “family” and the local church is our spiritual “home.” As is true in the physical family, obligations and responsibilities toward one another exist in the spiritual family. (Heb 2:11) *“For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are _____ of _____: for which cause he is _____ to call them _____.”*
- 6. Our Own Space** We do need privacy and “our own space” but cohesion is a family trait. We should be comfortable with family members. (Ps 133:1) *“Behold, how _____ and how _____ it is for brethren to _____ in unity!”* Do you like being with your family? _____