

Ephesians 5 (7-4-10)

WHAT IS THE CHURCH? (The Universal-Church, and State-Church Errors)

TEXT: Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is honourable in all, and **the bed** undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

Ephesians 5:23 For **the husband** is the head of **the wife**, even as Christ is the head of **the church**: and he is the saviour of the body.

1 Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself **in** the house of God, which is **the church** of the living God, **the pillar and ground of the truth**.

Matthew 18:16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto **the church**: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

1 Corinthians 14:34 Let your women keep silence **in the churches**: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.

35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands **at home**: for it is a shame for women to speak in **the church**.

Ephesians 3:15 Of whom **the whole family** in heaven and earth is named,

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of **the church**: and he is the saviour of the body.

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"The Quebec Act [of 1774, establishing the Roman Catholic religion in the Province of Quebec] contributed, more than, perhaps any other measure, to drive the American provinces into the present rebellion."
(*Canadian Freeholder*)

"[This legislation by Parliament will allow] these dogs of Hell to erect their Heads and triumph within our Borders."
(*The Pennsylvania Gazette*)

"Gentleman, you are about to embark for America, to compel for fellow subjects there to submit to Popery and slavery..."
(An address to British soldiers by supporters of the Americans in Britain)

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"The affair of Canada is still worse. The Romish faith is made the established religion of the land...If they [English Parliament] had been friends to the Protestant cause, they never would have provided such a nursery for its great enemy...They may well establish Popery in New York and the other colonies as they did in Canada. They had no more right to it there than here. Your lives, your property, your religion are all at stake."

(Alexander Hamilton, *A Full Vindication of Measures of Congress*, 1774)

"Why there's the Quebec Bill; don't you think they intend to bring in Popery?"

(*The American Aroused*)

"Can a free government possibly exist with the Catholic religion?"

(John Adams)

"Freedom of conscience, unlimited freedom of mind, was from the first the trophy of the Baptists."

(George Bancroft, American historian)

"The Baptists were the first propounders of absolute liberty, just and true liberty, equal and impartial liberty."

(John Locke)

"To the President of the United States of America [George Washington]...When the Constitution first made its appearance in Virginia, we, as a society, had unusual strugglings of mind, fearing that the liberty of conscience (dearer to us than property and life) was not sufficiently secured; perhaps our jealousies were heightened on account of the usage we received in Virginia under the British Government when mobs, bonds, fines and prisons were our frequent repast..."

(*The Address of the Committee of the United Baptist Churches in Virginia*; August 8, 1789)

"While I recollect with satisfaction that the religious society of which you are members have been throughout America, uniformly and almost unanimously, the firm friends to civil liberty, and the persevering promoters of our glorious revolution, I cannot hesitate to believe that they will be faithful supporters of a free yet efficient General Government. Under this pleasing expectation I rejoice to assure them that they may rely upon my best wishes and endeavors to advance their prosperity."

(George Washington; reply to the Baptists)

"Congress declared the first amendment to the Constitution to be in force December 15, 1791, which granted religious liberty to all citizens, Baptists are credited with being the leaders in bringing this blessing to the nation...The question of whether the United States should have an established church or several established churches, or religious liberty, was being discussed. Several different bills had been offered, one recommending the Church of England as the established church; and another the Congregationalist Church, and yet another the Presbyterian. The Baptists...were earnestly contending for absolute religious liberty. James Madison (afterwards President) seemingly was their main supporter. Patrick Henry arose and offered a substitute bill for them all, 'That four churches (or denominations) instead of one be established' - the Church of England, or Episcopal, Congregationalist, Presbyterian, and the Baptist. Finally when each of the

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others saw that IT could not be made the sole established church, they each agreed to accept Henry's compromise. (This compromise bill stated that each person taxed would have the right to say to which denomination of these four his money should go.) The Baptists continued to fight against it all; **that any combination of Church and State was against their fundamental principles**, that they could not accept it even if voted. Henry pleaded with them, said he was trying to help them, that they could not live without it, but they still protested. The vote was taken - it carried nearly unanimously. But the measure had to be voted on three times. The Baptists, led by Madison and possibly others continued to fight. The second vote came. It also carried almost unanimously, swept by Henry's masterful eloquence. But the third vote had yet to be taken. Now God seemingly intervened. Henry was made Governor of Virginia and left Congress. When the third vote came, deprived of Henry's irresistible eloquence, the vote was lost...there can be no real and absolute Religious liberty in any nation where the Government gives its support to one special religious denomination."

(J.M. Carroll, *The Trail of Blood*)

"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."

(The First Amendment)

2 Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you **to one husband**, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.