

# **A lack of respect for God is sweeping across our nation**

by Randy Bright <http://www.tulsabeacon.com/?p=5435>

As we see the growth in government, we are also seeing a growth in corruption. At this moment, the Solyndra scandal is beginning to get the attention of the FBI and pundits are saying that the corruption may go all the way to the White House. But why should the growth in corruption surprise anyone? Many of our country's leaders no longer respect, fear or even believe in God, at least not the one in the Bible.

Perhaps Noah Webster said it best in one of his textbooks, "All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible."

Correlation is not necessarily causation, of course. A growing government does not necessarily mean that corruption among our citizens and leaders must grow. In fact, it may be just the opposite: it appears that government is growing precisely because corruption is growing. When mankind has no moral compass, then anything is acceptable.

John Adams said, "We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion...Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

In 1947, the Supreme Court changed how America viewed religion. In the *Everson v. Board of Education* case, it said, "The First Amendment has erected a wall between church and state. That wall must be kept high and impregnable. We could not approve the slightest breach."

In his book, *Original Intent*, David Barton lists a number of outrageous examples of court rulings that have placed severe restrictions on religion, with special attention toward Christians.

Here are some of those examples of things that the courts have found to be unconstitutional.

- Giving a book containing Bible stories to a fellow rider on a public bus.
- Displaying the Ten Commandments in courthouses or government buildings.
- Building a planter in the shape of a cross in a public cemetery.
- Displaying any religious symbol in a city seal.
- Displaying a nativity scene on public property.
- It has been ruled unconstitutional for Christians to pray public prayers.
- In legislature, a bill is unconstitutional if its writer "had a religious activity in his mind."

These and other decisions have created an atmosphere of hostility toward religion. Barton gives these examples of how judges have ruled as a result:

Barring state employees from parking in a state parking lot because of religious bumper stickers. A military honor guard for military funerals was removed from his position for saying the words “God bless you and this family, and God bless the United States of America” at the request of a family.

A murder sentence was overturned because the prosecuting attorney spoke seven words from the Bible.

Senior citizens have been barred from praying over their meals in a community senior center. In nine states, it has been declared constitutional to require a three-week junior high school course on Islam, but unconstitutional to say the words “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The trend toward the expansion of the definition of the “public realm” may also give rise to a new kind of discrimination. Since many new zoning codes try to achieve a certain “desired urban form” for the built environment, at what point does the outer surface of a building become part of the public realm? I coined a phrase for it some time ago. “What the public sees, the public owns.”

So at what point will judges declare that the outer surface of a church can’t contain a religious symbol because it belongs to the public? Or that its architecture can’t convey that it is a church? If nothing happens to change the abuse and misinterpretation of the Constitution, I think it is only a matter of time.

Absurd? Of course, but lesser “offenses” have already been deemed unconstitutional. Why not this one? It will be a tragedy if it does, since the church has given Americans their moral compass since the days of the Founders. Think there’s corruption now? If the church and Christians must become invisible, what will constrain mankind from becoming completely corrupt?

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