

What Would Tom Say?

Religious Freedom Issues

- Prayer & “Bible Literacy” in Public Schools
- “In God We Trust” (Motto? in schools, sheriff’s cars, courts)
- God in the Pledge (indivisible?)
- School Vouchers (private, religious schools get public \$)
- Science Education (evidence based?; who writes textbooks?)
- National Day of Prayer (establishment of religion?)
- Religious Representation in Congress (88% Christian)
- Chaplains in Congress (all Christian since 1789)
- Religious Influence in the White House (how, who, why?)
- Invocations (town councils, school boards, graduations)
- Women’s Health (religious restrictions?)
- Marriage Laws (religiously based?)
- LGBTQ Equality (religious rights or discrimination?)
- Johnson Amendment (pulpit politics)
- Ten Commandments on Public Land (purpose?)
- Christian Crosses on Public Land (honor all vets?)
- Nativity scenes on Public Land (exclusive holiday displays?)

A central question: Can/should our (secular) Government, at any level, show *preference* for Religion or any particular religion or give *privilege* to faith in the public square?

“Sincerely wishing ... ye may always fully and uninterruptedly enjoy every civil and religious right, and be, in your turn, the means of securing it to others.” Epistle to Quakers, 1776

“[When] opinions are free, either in matters of government or religion, truth will finally and powerfully prevail.” The Age of Reason, 1794