

The Rape Of The Soul

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In his essay "Memorial And Remonstrance Against Religious Assessments," James Madison emphasized that freedom in the exercise of one's conscience is an inalienable right toward men and an inalienable duty toward the Creator. He stated, "This duty is precedent, both in order of time and in degree of obligation, to the claims of Civil Society." He continued, "We maintain therefore that in matters of Religion no man's right is abridged by the institution of Civil Society and that Religion is wholly exempt from its cognizance."

Also, in his essay "On Property," Madison wrote, "Conscience is the most sacred of all property." "Property" includes our "opinions and the free communication of them." "He has property of peculiar value in his religious opinions, and in the free communication of them."

A person's most basic right is to live according to the dictates of one's own conscience. The conscience is to be held inviolable before God and man. Government and its laws must not violate the sanctity of a person's conscience. An invisible sign says to government: "Off limits--no trespassing!" Government must not trample on the consciences of the people. America was founded on this unshakable principle.

Establishing laws and penalties that pressure people to violate their conscience is tyranny. Even more so is punishing people for their moral integrity in remaining true to their conscience. Forcing people to violate their conscience is nothing less than the rape of their souls.

Governments at all levels have an obligation of the highest magnitude to protect the transcendent right of the conscience. It follows then that no one who denies the existence of a Creator can believe that human beings are endowed with inalienable rights by a Creator. Furthermore, no one who denies a Creator is qualified to protect those endowed rights with inner conviction. Such a person cannot properly value what he or she is assigned and pledged to protect. Accordingly, no one who denies the existence of a Creator is qualified to hold a position of trust where laws affecting inalienable human rights and values are passed, administered, and judged. *Therefore, in a society that highly values our Creator-endowed rights it is not logical to elect to such positions those who do not have a firm belief in God.*

Elections *do* have consequences. People elect presidents; presidents nominate federal judges; elected senators confirm them; federal judges decide what the Constitution "says." It all comes eventually from the people. We get what we vote for.

People who deny a Creator are forced by their own logic to regard the human conscience as only a value-neutral psychological state and its convictions as merely the product of conditioning. Under a government by such people, the conscience would then be subordinate to the laws of society, and society would punish people who could not in good conscience obey those laws.

That is what we are facing right now in America. It is the direction we are currently going. Small business owners whose conscience will not allow them to participate in same-sex events are maligned, prosecuted as criminals and severely punished. Business owners whose conscience will not allow them to pay for killing unborn babies face crushing fines. Citizens are unjustly being removed from their positions of employment and their careers and livelihood are being destroyed merely for expressing their views regarding same-sex behavior and relationships.

If we do not stop and change course the result will be the greatest and most fundamental paradigm shift in our nation's history. It will result in nothing less than the loss of our most precious rights. The rights that all who have gone before us on this continent skillfully established and fought and died for will be but a memory. And many people will not even miss them because they were ignorant of them and/or senseless of their priceless value. They traded their birthright for a "mess of pottage"; it was like taking candy out of the hand of a sleeping baby.

So then, are we created in the image of God, endowed with certain inalienable rights under God? Or are we merely highly evolved animals to be domesticated and controlled by government, with only revocable conferred rights? We cannot be both. It is time to choose.

"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people groan" (Proverbs 29:2).