

President Obama, on 6 April 2009 *(At a press conference in Turkey)*

“And I've said before that one of the great strengths of the United States is – although, as I mentioned, we have a very large Christian population -- we do not consider ourselves a Christian nation or a Jewish nation or a Muslim nation; we consider ourselves a nation of citizens who are bound by ideals and a set of values.”

THE HISTORICAL REALITY

The United States were originally founded as “a Christian nation.”

The “ideals” & “the set of values” by which we were originally “bound” was specifically **Biblical Christianity**, not some sort of general religious pluralism.

U.S. Supreme Court

Holy Trinity v. U.S. (1892)

In reviewing evidence from the colonial days onward, the U.S. Supreme Court stated unequivocally that the United States was established as a “Christian nation.”

“There is no dissonance in these declarations. There is a universal language pervading them all, having one meaning. They affirm and reaffirm that **this is a religious nation**. These are not individual sayings, declarations of private persons. They are organic utterances. They speak the voice of the entire people....

U.S. Supreme Court

Holy Trinity v. U.S. (1892)

“While because of a general recognition of this truth the question has seldom been presented to the courts, yet we find that in *Updegraph v. Com.*, it was decided that, 'Christianity, general Christianity, is, and always has been, a part of the common law of Pennsylvania; * * * not Christianity with an established church and tithes and spiritual courts, but Christianity with liberty of conscience to all men.’”

U.S. Supreme Court

Holy Trinity v. U.S. (1892)

“And in *People v. Ruggles*, Chancellor KENT, the great commentator on American law, speaking as chief justice of the supreme court of New York, said: 'The people of this state, in common with the people of this country, profess the general doctrines of Christianity as the rule of their faith and practice; and to scandalize the author of these doctrines is not only, in a religious point of view, extremely impious, but, even in respect to the obligations due to society, is a gross violation of decency and good order.... we are a Christian people, and the morality of the country is deeply ingrafted upon Christianity...”

[*By the way, in this same passage, Justice Kent referred to the religions of Islam & Buddhism as “those imposters.”*]

U.S. Supreme Court

Holy Trinity v. U.S. (1892)

“If we pass beyond these matters to a view of American life, as expressed by its laws, its business, its customs, and its society, we find every where a clear recognition of the same truth... [*a long series of examples was then provided*]

“These, and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that **this is a Christian nation.**”

Declaration of Independence (1776)

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed **by their Creator** with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness...

“And for the support of this Declaration, **with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence**, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

John Adams to his wife, Abigail, about the signing of the Declaration

"The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever."

Former President Adams' reflection upon the founding of the U.S. (1813)

“The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity. I will avow that I then believed, and now believe, that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God.”

The First Amendment (1791)

“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.”

[This was intended to protect the individual States, and the people living therein, from interference by a Federal government.]

For the Founders, “Religion” = “Christianity”

The founding documents of all Thirteen original Colonies/States indicate this fact. Many of them not only make reference to Christianity in general, but also specify Protestantism in particular. Some even required oaths be taken, not just to the State, but also to Jesus and to the Bible.

The Northwest Ordinance (1787)

The First Act of the U.S. Congress

Sec. 13. And, for extending the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty, which form the basis whereon these republics, their laws and constitutions are erected; to fix and establish those principles as the basis of all laws, constitutions, and governments, which forever hereafter shall be formed in the said territory:

Sec. 14.

Art. 1. No person, demeaning himself in a peaceable and orderly manner, shall ever be molested on account of his mode of worship or religious sentiments, in the said territory.

Art. 3. Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.

“So, what happened between the founding & today?”

European Religious Liberalism infected our seminaries & teacher-training schools during the late 1800's. From there it spread into every aspect of our society - Churches, Politics & Public Education.

The “Social Gospel,” focusing upon Jesus as a “great teacher” and “social reformer,” replaced the authentic “Atonement Gospel” within many American Churches during the late 1800's & early 1900's.

Political Progressivism, changes/reform via governmental action, also took hold during the same period.

Humanistic Education, an “a-theistic” educational system, focused upon Humanity rather than God (Evolution being a key component of it), also started taking hold in the early 1900's, eventually assuming full control via a series of Supreme Court decisions during the 50's, 60's & 70's.

“What is the inevitable result?”

President John Adams (1798)

“While our country remains untainted with the principles and manners which are now producing desolation in so many parts of the world; while she continues sincere, and incapable of insidious and impious policy, we shall have the strongest reason to rejoice in the local destination assigned us by Providence.

“But should the people of America once become capable of that deep simulation towards one another, and towards foreign nations, which assumes the language of justice and moderation while it is practicing iniquity and extravagance, and displays in the most captivating manner the charming pictures of candor, frankness, and sincerity, while it is rioting in rapine and insolence, this country will be the most miserable habitation in the world; because we have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

“In a nutshell..”

A commitment to our written Constitution is basically worthless without a parallel commitment to the written Word of God.

&

Our country's success is intrinsically related to our country's relationship to God.

FINAL THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Righteousness exalts a nation,
but sin is a reproach to any people.

Proverbs 14:34 (ESV)

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

1 Timothy 2:1-6 (ESV)