

The Humanists of Sarasota Bay (HUSBAY)

Support the Separation of Church and State for the Good of Both Religious and Nonreligious Citizens

The separation of church and state is one of the cornerstones of America's foundation witnessed by the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the writings of the Founding Fathers. An increasing number of Conservative Christian Fundamentalists contend that the Founding Fathers foresaw America as a Christian state at the expense of those who practice other religions or no religion at all. The Humanists of Sarasota Bay respect the right of individuals to have and practice religious beliefs; in the matter of church and state, however, the Founding Fathers were clear on their intentions. Below are quotes from the Founding Fathers supporting separation of church and state.

"The United States of America have exhibited, perhaps, the first example of governments erected on the simple principles of nature ..."

-John Adams, 1787-1788

"The Government of the United States of America is not in any sense founded on the Christian religion."

-John Adams, Treaty of Tripoli, 1797

"I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibit the free exercise thereof, thus building a wall of separation between church and state."

-Thomas Jefferson, 1802

"I am for freedom of religion and against all maneuvers to bring about a legal ascendancy of one sect over another."

-Thomas Jefferson, 1799



"Christianity neither is, nor ever was a part of the common law."

-Thomas Jefferson, 1814

"The civil government functions with complete success by the total separation of the Church from the State."

-James Madison, 1819

"Every new and successful example of a perfect separation between ecclesiastical and civil matters is of importance."

-James Madison, 1822

"No religious doctrine shall be established by law."

-Elbridge Gerry, Annals of Congress 1

"... no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States."

-United States Constitution, Article VI

"Persecution is not an original feature in any religion; but it is always the strongly marked feature of all religions established by law."

-Thomas Paine, 1791

"Congress has no power to make any religious establishments."

-Roger Sherman, 1789

"The legislature of the United States shall pass no law on the subject of religion."

-Charles Pinckney, 1787

Additional quotes, extended source references, bibliography, and other information on this and other topics of interest to Humanists and Freethinkers are available on the HUSBAY website: www.sarasota.humanists.net

HUSBAY is a nonprofit corporation created to foster a community of freethinkers, dedicated to improving the human condition through rational inquiry, creative thinking and appropriate action.

www.sarasota.humanists.net