



## Separation of Church and State

Religion as a principle always tries to dominate the political situation. Religion must never gain ascendancy in any nation that values its freedom. Religion takes over the state when there is no separation of church and state. Biblical Christianity cannot reach the people of the nation when these distinctions are blurred.

Christianity recognizes the freedom of the individual. This freedom cannot exist unless there is a separation of church and state. When religion and state become one, there is no freedom for the people in that national entity.

No nation has ever been ruled by religion without being enslaved. This applies to Christianity too. The local church or any organization within the local church (Christian institution) which communicates doctrine, allows the individual to use their volition with regard to it. It's bona fide rituals are the Eucharist or communion and water baptism.

The local church functions as an entity separate from the government (state), but it can have a great deal of influence on government through witnessing, evangelism, and the presentation of Bible doctrine in a clear way. The influence of believers with doctrine overflows into the life of a nation. Matt. 5:13.

*"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men." (Matthew 5:13, NASB)*

The most patriotic thing a believer can do for their nation is to be a believer with Bible doctrine, eventually having an edification complex of the soul and growing spiritually.