

security for the practice of religion, any religion, by any person, in a very elegant and succinct statement: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof" in the First Amendment, Bill of Rights. The concept is given further freedoms by the fact that "religion" is not defined anywhere in the Constitution. I think that a concise way of viewing the matter of religion and government can be seen in the Supreme Court ruling in the (landmark) case of Reynolds v U.S. (98 US 145 ) which said that making religious rule or law superior to civil law would encourage everything and nothing, making each person a "law unto himself", meaning that there would be all law and no law, with government having no say in the matter.(2). In 2000 a case was filed in the U.S. District Court, 9th Circuit, by Dr. Michael Newdow, on the use of the word "God" in the Pledge, and in 2002 that court upheld Newdow's case, deciding in his favor 2-1. The case went to the U.S. Supreme Court which skirted the issue entirely—in their Elk Grove v Newdow ruling on March