

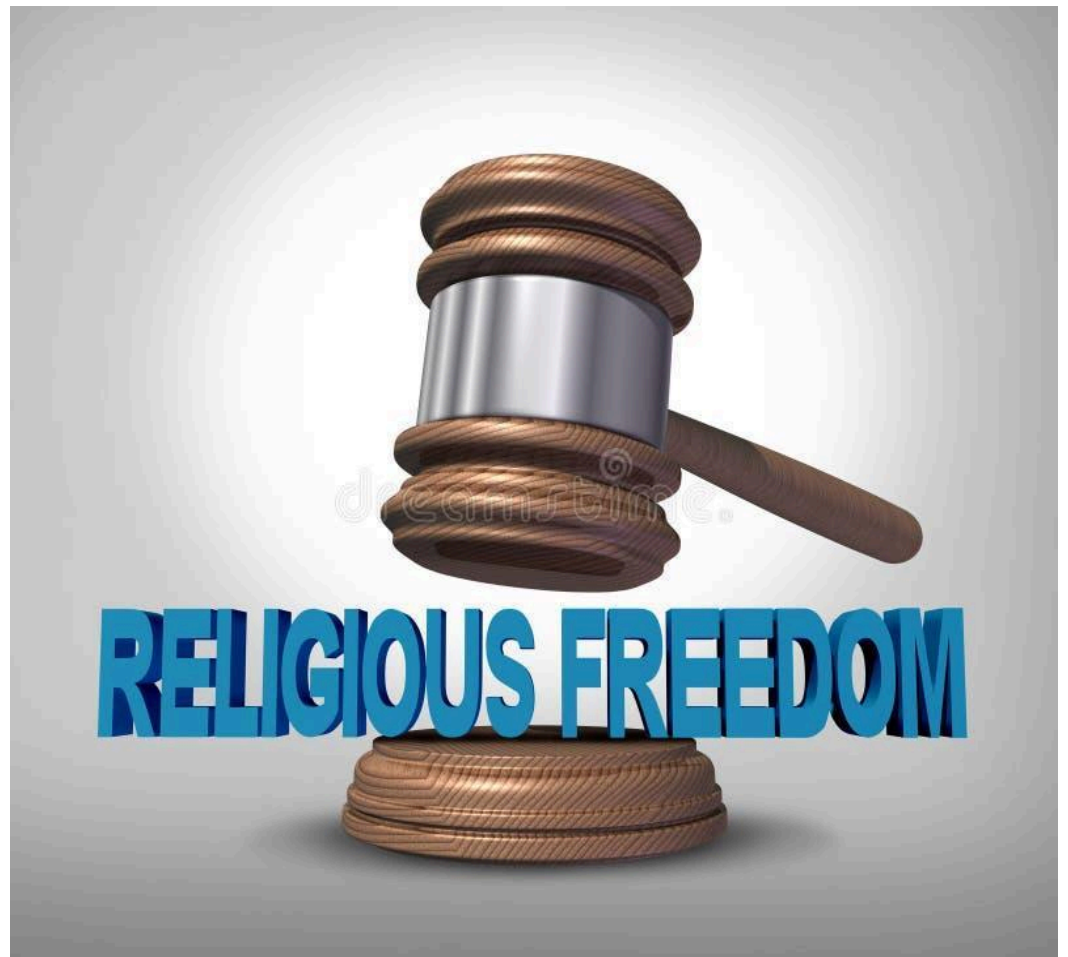
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Religious Liberty Update

Reflection “Choose you this day whom ye will serve...” — Joshua 24:15 (KJV)

“What Jesus Never Does”

Religious Liberty encompasses many things. Ultimately, true Religious Liberty, or at least the belief in and practice of true Religious Liberty, allows both us and those we come into contact with, to prepare for the second coming of Jesus and eternal life with Him.



What Jesus NEVER Does

Key Scripture: Joshua 24:15.

As I write this editorial for the June issue of *Religious Liberty Update*, it is 2:49am. It is remarkably quiet at this hour of the morning. I can easily understand why our Savior chose this time of day to spend in prayer with His Father (Mark 1:35).

Jesus did many things as an example for us. He was baptized (Matthew 3:13-14); ate with sinners (Matthew 9:10-13); healed on the Sabbath (Matthew 12:10-12), and so on. He was our perfect example in all things.

There is one thing, however, that He NEVER did: He NEVER forced anyone to follow Him! He never forced anyone to love each other, or help one another, or even pay taxes to Caesar (a fact which I'm sure Caesar would have loved!).

Forced allegiance or worship just wasn't part of the deal for Jesus. It could have been. After all, He was our creator (John 1:3). He was our Redeemer (Galatians 3:13, Ephesians 1:7, 1 Peter 1:18-19). Of course, He was our Sacrifice (John 1:29, Ephesians 5:2).

While compulsory allegiance, worship, and behavior were foreign to our Savior, apparently, they aren't to many so-called believers today! Attempts to coerce are all around us today for

everything from allegiance to speech to what day or even who I chose to worship.

If that last one sounds a bit shocking, consider the following: As of the writing of this editorial (May 13, 2026) *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* has only 8 more days until it and he go off the air permanently (May 21, 2026). Why? Well, first let me acknowledge that many of you may not be aware that there is or ever was a late night talk show hosted by Stephen Colbert. For the rest of us sinners, the end of this very popular show after a run of 33 years on CBS has come as quite a shock especially when one considers why.

The official reason given is “financial pressures and shifting viewership”. Really? The number 1 rated late night talk show is cancelled because of “financial pressures and shifting viewership”? Some very well placed rumors seem to indicate otherwise (see [Yahoo Entertainment](#) and [USA Today](#)).

Freedom of speech is a bedrock principle of our Constitution. It doesn't change for any reason! We don't lose that freedom because societal attitudes change, or some thin skinned government leaders get a little cranky because they think someone is “picking” on them. Sometimes, we Christians are advised to grow a thick skin because not everyone will be proud that we've chosen to follow Christ. Well, that also applies to high profile, government leaders, especially when their party affiliation has become a cult following.

We still live in a country where we can believe in, or follow whatever set of beliefs we want. Jesus loved us enough to allow the same thing even though it meant that we may not follow Him. Our government should do the same!

Jesus NEVER forced even good things. Neither should we!

