

CHRIST OR CAESAR:

WHO IS THE HEAD OF *YOUR* CHURCH?

An Urgent Message To All Churches

In 1954, a Democrat senator from Texas, who was also a 33rd-degree Freemason and an active Socialist, pushed through legislation deceptively cloaked as a “favor” extended to churches throughout America. This legislation was in actuality his response to the influence churches had wielded over the minds and hearts of voters, and his attempt to squelch Christian political influence.

It worked. Many churches swallowed the bait, and were reeled in with barely a struggle. Since then churches have been bound and gagged with the threat of financial sanction, shutdown, and even prison if their ministers speak out against the evils dragging America to destruction.

The Democrat senator was Lyndon Baines Johnson, and his “gift” to churches was the now-prevalent 501(c)3 tax exempt status. The 501(c)3 turned churches into entities of the state, with the state as the head (the ruling authority over the church). Anything that the government declared legal, whether homosexuality, euthanasia, the murder of unborn infants, or any injustice perpetrated by the state, was now off-limits for the church. The church had to support it, remain silent, or face consequences.

A church under the 501(c)3 is considered “incorporated”, which literally means, “part of the body”. Is this a reference to Christ's body? Hardly. In legal terms, any business, school, church, or other organization which is “incorporated” is part of the legal body which is the State. The State considers that entity under its rule, and thus part of its own body. Any incorporated entity must abide by the rules of the State, else the State can and will punish it and/or shut it down. Lyndon Johnson understood this, and also knew that the majority of Americans had no clue that this was what his “favor” entailed.

When Christ founded the church, He founded it with Himself as the head, or ruler (Eph 1:22, 5:23; Col 1:18). No other person or entity has the authority to take that position, but in accepting the 501(c)3, churches not only reject Christ as their head, but declare Caesar as their king (John 19:15). The church commits idolatry and the State commits blasphemy in trying to sit in the seat of God.

The offer of “tax-exempt status” sounds very

alluring, but it is a meaningless promise, because even prior to 1954 and through to today, churches under the IRS code are untaxable anyway! Even though churches are advised to apply for a 501(c)3, and even pressured to, there is absolutely no practical or beneficial reason for it.

Typically, to be considered for tax-exemption, an organization must fill out IRS Form 1023 and submit it to the IRS. But in IRS Publication 557 it says quite plainly that

“Some organizations are not required to file Form 1023. These include: Churches, interchurch organizations of local units of a church, conventions or associations of churches, or integrated auxiliaries of a church, such as a men’s or women’s organization, religious school, mission society, or youth group. These organizations are exempt automatically if they meet the requirements of section 501(c)(3).”

In addition, IRS Code 508(c)(1)(A) adds that “churches, their integrated auxiliaries, and conventions or associations of churches” are “mandatory exceptions”. Thus, according to IRS tax code, church tax-exemption is not only automatic but mandatory – WITHOUT the church filing for a 501(c)3 status!

Concerning tax deductions, IRS Publication 526 says,

“You can deduct your contributions only if you make them to a qualified organization. To become a qualified organization, most organizations other than churches and governments, as described below, must apply to the IRS.”

Again, if you want to contribute to a church and have your donation deducted from your taxes, that church need not be 501(c)3. Qualification for tax deduction is automatic!

As has just been easily demonstrated with quotes from publications easily acquired from the IRS upon request, there is not one single benefit to your church if it is a 501(c)3. In fact, a retired Senior Revenue Officer by the name of Steve Nestor, in the foreword

to Peter Kershaw's book *In Caesar's Grip* (a book highly recommended for anyone looking into this issue), says,

"I am not the only IRS employee who's wondered why churches go to the government and seek permission to be exempted from a tax they didn't owe to begin with, and to seek a tax deductible status that they've always had anyway. Many of us have marveled at how church leaders want to be regulated and controlled by an agency of government that most Americans have prayed would just get out of their lives. Churches are in an amazingly unique position, but they don't seem to know or appreciate the implications of what it would mean to be free of government control."

Government control? Who'd be worried about that?

A better question is, who *wouldn't*?

In an era in which sodomy is being normalized, preachers have been facing court trials and prison time for speaking against it. The State has the authority to do this because the churches have (mostly unwittingly) signed themselves over to the State's jurisdiction. As corporate entities under the headship of the State, churches have no legal authority to question, reprimand, or otherwise contradict what the State declares, even if those declarations are blatantly contrary to the Word of God.

Speaking out against the murder of unborn children, unjust wars, government overreach, and overall immorality in the actions of government, its officials, and the society it rules are not an option for ministers in churches who have signed their freedoms away in a 501(c)3. The minister in your 501(c)3 church may be getting away with it for now, but be assured that he is going against a contract with the State, and that his days of speaking out are numbered.

This truth has suddenly become even more pertinent in light of the recent Supreme Court ruling of June 25, 2015. If your church is a 501(c)3 organization, it is a direct member and servant of the government that has ruled that sodomite marriages are legal in all fifty states. *This means your church cannot refuse to host or perform sodomite marriages.* If it refuses it can be subject to severe repercussions because it has rebelled against its head, the State. If you take a stand against the perversion of homosexuality, your stance will soon become meaningless since *your 501(c)3 church is a voluntary*

vassal of the godless State.

A non-501(c)3 church would still be able to refuse sodomite unions. It may come under fire in the press and in other venues, but the State has nothing legal to hold over it. The non-501(c)3 church would be nearly impossible to sue, since legally it's not a single entity, but rather a group of individuals. The State has no tax-exempt status to yank away, nor can it legally prosecute or imprison its members for noncompliance. It is a truly free church! Any 501(c)3 church is in a very dangerous position right now, and it would behoove each and every one of them, if they intend to take a stand against sodomy, to cast away their shackles and flee to the proper headship of Jesus Christ.

As beneficial as the 501(c)3 is made to sound, it is in fact a muzzle on the church, a ring in its nose used to control and subdue the message of morality and righteousness Christ called the church to proclaim. It is an exchange of rulers, in which the church rejects God from ruling over them just as the ancient Israelites did in the days of the prophet Samuel (I Samuel 8). It is also blasphemy which places the State in the position reserved for Jesus Christ. It is the last thing Christians should accept, and yet the first thing to which most churches run!

Find out if your church is a 501(c)3 church. It should be as simple as asking your minister. If it is, try to inform the members of your church of the awful mistake that has been made. Your church can get free of the 501(c)3 shackles. There is no danger of penalty from the government, no fear of loss of tax-exemption. Your church will have nothing to lose but chains, and so much freedom to gain.

If, once made aware of this terrible truth, your church still refuses to get rid of its 501(c)3, then it may be time for you to seriously rethink your association with it. If they have no desire to throw off the usurped headship of the State and return to the rightful headship of Christ, then they are in effect joining the mob at His trial, who shouted, "We have no king but Caesar!" (John 19:15) Harsh words, perhaps, but it's the truth. If you do not sever yourself from it, the price to pay may be steep, particularly when you're standing before the true King's judgment seat.

Again, you are encouraged to get a copy of Peter Kershaw's book, *In Caesar's Grip*, available through Amazon.com. If you love Christ and love freedom, prayerfully investigate this issue to its fullest extent.

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