

I recently saw your "War on Religion" commercial online, and I have a few concerns. Your commercial indicates "You don't have to be in the pew every Sunday to know that there's something wrong in this country when gays can serve openly in the military, but our kids can't openly celebrate Christmas or pray in schools..." First, is it your assertion that Don't Ask Don't Tell is a religiously motivated policy? Clearly, the repeal of DADT is being used here to juxtapose your concerns about religious celebrations and is within a religious context. If Don't Ask Don't Tell is a religious policy, precisely how does that not violate the establishment clause of the constitution? Clearly, government should not pass any law that favors one religious view in favor of another, yet your commercial indicates very clearly that the repeal of DADT is religiously motivated. Of course, if I am mistaken, and it is not a religiously motivated policy, I am baffled by it's presence in your video. Please clarify.

Additionally, your commercial indicates that children cannot openly celebrate Christmas. I find this confusing. Christmas is a national holiday, and public schools are closed on this day, though I think it's worth noting that these same schools are not closed for other religious celebrations. If children are home with their families on this day, what governmental policy prevents them from openly celebrating Christmas?

As to prayer in school, again I am baffled. I can find nowhere a law that prevents a student from engaging in silent prayer or in praying during lunch, recess, during passing periods or other moments of free time. Kids can already pray in schools. Certainly public schools don't lead prayers or have structured moments of prayer, but as taxpayer funded institutions, they are obviously unable to do so legally without violating the establishment clause. You say that you are a Christian in your ad. Would you be comfortable having a Jewish teacher lead students in a traditional Jewish prayer? Or a traditional Islamic prayer? I doubt very much that it is a stretch to suggest that this might cause some concern at the PTA. Choosing to promote the religious observances of one faith over another is a violation of the establishment clause when that choice is made on public land and funded by tax payer monies.

You also suggest that these issues are based on Obama's war on religion. You and President Obama share the same faith. Perhaps your inability to see eye to eye on it's implementation should serve to highlight why government has no role in establishing religious practice or making policy on religious grounds. If two G-men of the same faith can't agree, what hope is there to appease the many people from the many faiths that make up this country?

I will say though, snazzy Carhartt jacket you've got on.

Respectfully,

Tom