

The ACLU and Your America

(II Cor. 3:17; II Pet. 2:19)

- I. History of the American Civil Liberties Union
 - A. Founded in 1920 by Roger Baldwin
 1. Baldwin was an agnostic socialist with communist leanings.
 2. He was an affluent, Harvard-educated Bostonian with an ancestral line traceable to the Mayflower.
 3. His father Henry Baldwin was described as an “anti-Christian crusader.”
 4. Baldwin was a close friend of Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood and promoter of eugenics. Eugenics proposes methods of improving the human species through selective breeding. Hitler believed in eugenics.
 5. Baldwin was also a friend of Emma Goldman, a radical promoter of anarchism, radical education, and free love. Known as “Red Emma,” she founded the anarchist *Mother Earth* magazine. She was eventually deported to Russia in 1919.
 6. Baldwin himself wrote, “I am for Socialism, disarmament, and ultimately the abolishing of the state itself as an instrument of violence and compulsion. I seek social ownership of property, the abolition of the propertied class, and sole control by those who produce wealth. Communism is the goal.”
 - B. Throughout the 1920’s and 1930’s the ACLU had prominent Communist Party members among its leadership. Examples include Harry F. Ward and Robert W. Dunn.
 - C. The ACLU orchestrated what has come to be known as the Scopes Monkey Trial. The ACLU established a legal defense fund for any teacher who would defy the Butler Act by teaching evolution in the public schools. John Thomas Scopes willingly defied the law in order to become the ACLU’s test case. The rest is history.
 - D. Throughout its checkered history, the ACLU has provided legal assistance for cases aimed against religion and morality in the United States.
- II. Official Positions of the American Civil Liberties Union
 - A. All legal prohibitions on the distribution of obscene material—including *child pornography*—are unconstitutional.
 - B. Pornographic outlets can locate wherever they please—whether next to churches or day-care centers or near residential neighborhoods.
 - C. Tax-funded libraries should not restrict access of children to pornography on the Internet.
 - D. Parents should have no legal recourse when it comes to shielding their children from exposure to hard-core pornography.
 - E. The military cannot enforce even the most basic codes of conduct—such as discipline for disrespectful behavior toward a superior officer.

- F. The military cannot stop open displays of homosexual behavior within its ranks.
- G. Parents cannot limit their children's exposure to, or participation in public school classes and assemblies, any topic—except Orthodox Jewish or Christian teachings—that violates the family's core religious and moral beliefs.
- H. Public schools cannot observe recognized religious, historical, and cultural holidays such as Christmas, Easter, or Hanukkah, despite hundreds of years of American tradition.
- I. All legislative, military and prison chaplaincy programs should be abolished.
- J. All criminal and civil laws that *prohibit polygamy* and same-sex "marriage" should be done away with.

III. ACLU's War on Religious Freedom

- A. The ACLU has filed a lawsuit against the National Park Service demanding that it remove a cross placed in honor of WWI veterans at Sunrise Rock in the Mohave Desert in California.
- B. In Los Angeles, the ACLU has demanded the removal of a tiny cross from the city's official seal.
- C. The ACLU has succeeded in the removal of religious symbols from the seals of Stow, Ohio; Redlands, CA; Duluth, MN; Plattsmouth, NE; and Republic, MO.
- D. In Chester County, PA, the ACLU sued to have an eighty-five-year-old plaque of the Ten Commandments removed at the county courthouse. A lower court ruled in favor of the ACLU and its allies and ordered the plaque covered with a shroud so it would not offend someone.
- E. The ACLU assisted in the 1983 case against Bob Jones University that subsequently cost the university its tax exempt status.
 - 1. The Bob Jones University case is far reaching because it involves so-called discrimination.
 - 2. If the homosexual lifestyle gains legally protected status, any organization guilty of "discrimination" would be at risk of losing its tax exempt status.

IV. What are Christians to do?

- A. Continue to exercise religious rights without regard to threats. If necessary, be willing to suffer for your stand.
- B. Refuse to be intimidated by anti-God forces operating in America.
- C. Make sure your vote reflects a Christian world view.
- D. Support good organizations which oppose the ACLU's agenda. The Christian Law Association is an excellent example of an institution worthy of our support.
- E. Pray for your country, president, elected officials.
- F. Keep on proclaiming Christ!