

Separation of Church and State
By Philip Hamburger

Virginia's 1786 Act for Establishing Religious Freedom, which was drafted by Thomas Jefferson, "did not disentangle religion from politics or sever relations between church and state. Nor did Virginians understand Jefferson's statute to require that separation" On the contrary, the act...ensured Baptists and other evangelicals an equal religious liberty and thereby allowed evangelicals to cooperate in pursuit of their legislative agenda, with which they hoped to impose their religious values and culture upon American society. P.5

The First Amendment did not say that in every and all respects there shall be a separation of church and state. If it had said this...churches would not be required to pay property taxes; on the other municipalities would not be permitted to render police or fire protection to religious groups.

Williams sought a faith untainted by clerical corruption, and to this end he separated himself from all institutionalized religion...{he} questioned the legitimacy of any formal and, particularly, any paid ministry, whose spiritual qualifications were tainted by worldly things. Believing that Constantine, through his supposed donation of the western empire to the pope, had introduced the reign of the Anti-Christ, Williams doubted whether the feeding and nourishing of pastors and teachers according to the first Institution of the Lord Jesus are yet restored and extant. Cotton interpreted Williams to mean that the Apostasy of Antichrist hath so far corrupted all, that there can be no recovery out of that, till Christ shall send forth new Apostles to plant Churches anew...He so urgently desired purity that he forbade the clergy from earning their living within their own, purely voluntary churches, lest they defile themselves with power, money, or other impure things of this world. 50-51

John Locke: No man, therefore, with whatsoever ecclesiastical office he be dignified, can deprive another man that is not of his church and faith either liberty or of any part of his worldly goods upon the account of that difference between them in religion. P.54

1777 a freeman of Virginia *Freeman's Remonstrance against an Ecclesiastical Establishment*:

The Church has been long since betrothed to another. She is espoused as a chaste virgin unto Christ. He is her husband: and she is the bride, the lamb's wife. And if so, was she to be joined to the State, it would be committing spiritual adultery, the most detestable of all enormities.

...this union we know, has often been productive of the most pernicious consequences. They have always corrupted, and often ruined one another; as wine and water mingled, turns to vinegar. The State, I say, has always corrupted the church...The very establishment corrupts the Church. And such a Church will consequently corrupt the State. P.55