



# UNDER GOD?

## The Week of October 4, 2020 Religious Liberty Group Discussion Questions

[Watch this sermon summary from Pastor David at https://youtu.be/5GJRLd2HPc0](https://youtu.be/5GJRLd2HPc0)

### Intro Questions

- How would you define religious liberty in America? The world?

### Religious Liberty in the Bible

- What do you remember about Pastor David's definition of religious liberty? (*"When we think about Religious Liberty, we're thinking about the freedom to believe as we choose and to live according to those beliefs without fear of government interference... It doesn't matter if you're a liberal or a conservative, a democrat or a republican, a Christian, a Muslim a Jew or an atheist. Religious liberty is good for you."*)
- Read the following passages. What can we learn about religious liberty from them?
  - "For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." *John 3:16*
  - And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die." *Genesis 2:16-17*
  - "Now if you will listen to Me and carefully keep My covenant, you will be My own possession out of all the peoples, although all the earth is Mine, and you will be My kingdom of priests and My holy nation.' These are the words that you are to say to the Israelites." *Exodus 19:5-6*
  - Do not have other gods besides Me. *Exodus 20:3*
  - Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." *Matthew 28:18-20*
  - Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for God's glory. *1 Corinthians 10:31*

- Does the First Amendment guarantee religious liberty? (*"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof . . ."*)
- Pastor David says we should disagree "agreeably and in winsome ways." What does that mean?

- **Read 1 Peter 3:15**

But honor the Messiah as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.

## Current Threats to Religious Liberty

- **The Death of Absolute Truth**
  - What are some ways you have seen the loss of absolute truth change our society?
- **The Rise of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Rights**
  - What is the basic sexual ethic of the Bible?
    - How do we lovingly share and model the truth of this with those that disagree with us?
  - Have you seen examples of those that have stood for truth? How does the culture treat them?
  - Regarding the case of the photographer that wouldn't serve at gay wedding, Supreme Court Justice Richard Bosson wrote in his opinion that "The Huguenins are free to think, to say, to believe, as they wish; they may pray to the God of their choice and follow those commandments in their personal lives wherever they lead. The Constitution protects the Huguenins in that respect and much more. But . . . In the smaller, more focused world of the marketplace, of commerce, of public accommodation, the Huguenins have to channel their conduct, not their beliefs . . . I would say to the Huguenins, with the utmost respect: it is the price of citizenship."
    - How would you respond to this Justice?
- **Birth Control, Health Care Laws, and Abortion**
  - David mentioned two recent cases about organizations being forced to provide services that were against their deeply held beliefs, Hobby Lobby and the Little Sisters of the Poor. How do you think these precedents are for or against religious liberty in our country?
  - Do you know what the Hyde amendment is? ([Click here for the Wikipedia Article on the Hyde Amendment](#)) Do you think it's important to support it?

- How are you making God's Word a top priority in your life? Are you evaluating culture through the lens scripture or the other way around?
- How can you prepare to take a winsome stand on ethics?
- Do you have an answer to "This is who I am, this is what I believe and this is why?"
- What are some of issues on the ballot that you are researching or will be researching?
- Have you read the party platforms? Click below for links to each.
  - [Republican](#) (the Republican Party has chosen to not adopt a new party platform for 2020 and continue with the 2016 platform linked here.)
  - [Democratic](#)
  - [Libertarian](#)
  - [Green](#)

### Going Deeper

Check out the "Under God?" section in the church app for more videos and Election Resources.