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Subject: Re: Secular democracy

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Sun, 17 Jan 2010 07:24:36 GMT

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Religion is a personal decision. It has absolutely no place in policy- no matter how the laws are written, or who writes them, or why. Period. IMHO, the most sacred right a person has is that of self-determination- the right to choose what to believe and how to lead their life. It is the foundation of numerous other critical freedoms like the rights to free speech, privacy, self-defense, property... Government sponsorship of a religion- any religion- infringes on that right by codifying a particular belief structure and all of the subjective morality that goes with it.

Most governments were founded during a time when it was unthinkable to not belong to the dominant religion in that part of the world, so naturally their laws reflect whichever religion that happened to be. Many people still have some difficulty separating morality from religion, and hold the (mistaken) belief that without some element of religious guidance society would break down. However, humanity has accepted the same common threads of morality across the entire globe for longer than any single religion has existed; we do not require the input of churches or priests and what have you to tell right from wrong.

Note that I am not claiming as fact that there is no God. The choice of whether or not to believe in God, gods, or the Flying Spaghetti Monster is up to the individual. If you believe that we derive our morality from the power that created us, that is fine. However, it is part of our being as the social creatures that we are- no matter what faith a person does or does not follow, they will learn morality so long as they are raised by other human beings who accept a common rule of law (be it written or unwritten).

Governments are secular creations, and they ought only to have secular powers. Religious laws should only be applied to followers of that same religion, and no one else at all.