

ONE NATION ABOVE GOD?

When the flag pole in front of a church has the U.S. flag flying on it, or has the U.S. flag above the Christian flag, there is a problem with what these symbols are saying. For Christians it should be blasphemous, especially since the letter and intent of the U.S. Flag Code is clear:

SEC. 3 (f) When flags of states, cities, or localities, or pennants of societies are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States, the latter should always be at the peak...

*SEC. 3 (k) When used on a speaker's platform, the flag, if displayed flat, should be displayed above and behind the speaker. When displayed from a staff in a church or public auditorium, the flag of the United States of America should hold the **position of superior prominence**, in advance of the audience, and in **the position of honor** at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he faces the audience. **Any other flag** so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker or to the right of the audience.*

*SEC. 4 (j) ...**The flag ... is itself considered a living thing**. Therefore, the lapel flag pin, being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.*

When the U.S. government flag is used in any way by the church, symbolic contradictions always emerge. Pledges, flag processions and salutes are out of place in the church. How can venerating a dead secular image that is declared by law to be a living thing be construed as anything but idolatry?

Another problem is that, even when passively present, the flag identifies the church with the government of the United States in a way that, at least visually, takes clear precedence over other loyalties. Chinese visitors, for instance, would understand patriotic symbolism very well from their culture. They would never look at the flag in its place of prominence and assume that its presence means that Jesus is Lord and the U.S. government is not. It will appear to them that activities and statements of the church all happen by the permission and watchful eye of the government. That is the wrong message. Or is it?

The display of a secular flag in a position of symbolic superiority to the "Christian flag" or the podium from which the Word of God is preached should never be allowed. God's Law is above all.

If any pledges are to be made, the U.S. Federal Government should pledge allegiance to the Constitution and to the several States who own the powers delegated to it. Each State government should pledge allegiance to its people, landowners, taxpayers, voters, legal citizens, from whom it derives its just powers. The people should pledge allegiance to God, their Creator from whom they have their rights, liberties and hope.

Government flags in themselves are not evil and should be flown in their proper places, on appropriate occasions and be given due respect. However, no flag should be declared to be a living thing or worshipped anywhere. Such laws come from the socialists who want the central government to have absolute power and take a place above God. It appears that some churches agree. Federal flags should only be flown on Federal properties, embassies and used for U.S. military applications. Otherwise, patriotic people, businesses and local governments should fly the flag of their sovereign State or one of many other appropriate flags.

The U.S. government is not the friend of God any more than was the Roman government when the LORD was crucified. Do you think the early Church upheld, venerated or made pledges to the flag of the Roman Empire? What place does the flag of the U.S. Empire have in the house of the living God? If the Ten Commandments and Christian symbols are outlawed on public property because of Federal Court decisions separating church and state, why would we want a U.S. government flag to hold the place of highest honor at our church?

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me." - Exodus 20:3

"Little children, keep yourselves from idols." - I John 5:21

*"...what communion hath light with darkness?
...And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?"
- II Corinthians 6:14,16*

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