



THE ETHICS & RELIGIOUS  
LIBERTY COMMISSION  
OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

# Why Would Christians Support Religious Liberty?

## THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Religious liberty is a fundamental human right that is essential for a flourishing society. It recognizes that every person has the right to choose and exercise their religious beliefs according to their own conscience. Religious liberty allows individuals to seek truth and pursue a relationship with God without fear of persecution or discrimination, and then to live in light of that truth.

## THE BIBLICAL BASIS FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The Bible teaches that God has given every person the freedom to choose whether to follow him or not. The gospel message itself is one of freedom and grace. Baptists believe that promoting religious liberty recognizes the dignity of all human beings and flows from our belief that true conversion must occur without coercion. A true saving faith in Jesus Christ cannot be compelled by any government.

## RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND PUBLIC POLICY

Baptists play a crucial role in advocating for religious liberty in the public square. This includes supporting laws and policies that protect religious liberty for all, not just Christians. Christians can work together with people of other faiths and with those who

hold no religious beliefs to promote the common good and uphold freedom of conscience.

## HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

There are many ways that you can make a difference in promoting religious liberty. Here are a few suggestions:

- *Educate yourself about religious liberty:* Learn about the legal and cultural challenges facing religious liberty today.
- *Pray for religious liberty:* Pray for religious liberty for all people and that the government would uphold this fundamental right.
- *Advocate for religious liberty:* Write to your elected representatives, expressing your support for robust religious liberty protections.
- *Be a witness for Christ:* Live out your faith in a way that reflects the love and grace of Jesus Christ, sharing the gospel and showing compassion to those around you.



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