



May 27, 2010

**In response to a request from the *Woodruff City Bulletin*, this statement is from Jordan Sekulow, Attorney and Director of International Operations with the American Center for Law and Justice.**

By way of introduction, the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) is an organization dedicated to the defense of constitutional liberties secured by law. ACLJ attorneys have argued in numerous cases involving First Amendment issues before the Supreme Court of the United States and other federal and state courts. The ACLJ is specifically dedicated to the ideal that religious freedom and freedom of speech are inalienable, God-given rights.

The Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) is much more than an organization promoting their view of the so-called “separation of church and state” - a phrase, which of course, does not appear in the U.S. Constitution. They certainly have a right to advocate their view of the First Amendment and the U.S. Constitution - even if it is wrong.

It is clear, though, that the FFRF has a fundamental disdain for both religion and religious people. Their goal is also clear: to eradicate any mention of religion, even nonsectarian prayer like the National Day of Prayer, from the public arena. The FFRF always overlooks U.S. history dating back to our nation's first Continental Congress and Declaration of Independence. Does the FFRF consider the Declaration of Independence unconstitutional because of the mention of “Nature’s God” and “Creator” - should those words be stricken? After all, they continue to pursue efforts to remove “Under God” from the Pledge of Allegiance and stamp-out our National Motto “In God We Trust.”

Sadly, this organization mocks religious people. A quick review of their online store tells the story: CD's with songs titled “Nothing Fails Like Prayer.” They also sell “Bible Warning” labels, and bumper stickers that read: “The Bible: A Grim Fairly Tale.” The fact is that the FFRF is focused on attacking and demeaning religion - specifically the Christian religion.

Now, in a letter to the City of Woodruff, the FFRF is challenging prayer before meetings and the City seal. We believe that both are constitutional. This letter is another misguided attempt by the FFRF to intimidate cities and localities using a flawed interpretation of the First Amendment.

The American Center for Law and Justice provides legal assistance, without charge, to cities, towns and localities on First Amendment issues. The ACLJ stands ready to assist the City of Woodruff, if requested.