

PUBLIC SCHOOLS & GOD

"I support voluntary, student-led prayer and am committed to the First Amendment principles of religious freedom, tolerance, and diversity. Whether Mormon, Methodist, or Muslim, students in America should be able to participate in their constitutional free exercise of religion. I believe it is wrong to forcefully expunge any mention of religion, or dilute its impact and importance, when discussing world affairs. Religion is a personal, private matter and parents, not public school officials, should decide their children's religious training. We should not have teacher-led prayers in public schools, and school officials should never favor one religion over another, or favor religion over no religion (or vice versa). I also believe that schools should not restrict students' religious liberties. The free exercise of faith is the fundamental right of every American, and that right doesn't stop at the schoolhouse door." - **PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH**

"Nothing in the First Amendment converts our public schools into religion-free zones, or requires all religious expression to be left behind at the school house door." - **PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON, 1995-JUL-12.**

@ School

Should there be prayer in public schools and if so, in what form?

Should there be prayer before football games...before a chess match at graduations or banquets?

Should Bible studies be allowed on school grounds? Should students be allowed to share their faith with fellow students?

Should religious t-shirts and other clothing be allowed?

"School sponsorship of a religious message is impermissible because it sends the ancillary message to members of the audience who are nonadherents that they are outsiders, not full members of the political community, and an accompanying message to adherents that they are insiders, favored members of the political community. U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Santa Fe Independent School District v. Doe*, 2000-JUN-19.¹

Should teachers be allowed to lead prayers with groups of students?

If prayer is allowed, should Jesus' name be mentioned or should the prayer be as non-sectarian as possible?

Academics

Should the Bible be studied in school? Is it a useful historical/moral document?

Can history (or social science, family studies, etc.) be taught without discussing religion?

As examples; for over 1000 years, the political landscape of Europe was strongly influenced by the Catholic Church.

Our current world situation, what effects is Islam having on world politics/events.

"There is no such source and cause of strife, quarrel, fights, malignant opposition, persecution, and war, and all evil in the state, as religion. Let it once enter our civil affairs, our government would soon be destroyed. Let it once enter our common schools, they would be destroyed." - **Supreme Court of Wisconsin, Weiss v. District Board, 1890-MAR-18.**

"We've seen this type of strategy used before. The Guide ["The Bible & Public Schools"] discusses teaching about the Bible as history, but doing that in a fair and objective fashion is going to be extremely difficult, if not impossible. A program that promotes positive contributions of religion and ignores or give short shrift to negative impacts is not neutral..."--**Chris Allen, Utah State Director, AMERICAN ATHEISTS**²

In your opinion are typical school textbooks biased against Christians/Christianity?

What are Jesus' thoughts on prayer?

Matthew 6⁵ "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward."⁶But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Mark 6³⁹Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass.⁴⁰So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties.⁴¹Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all.

Matthew 14²³After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray.

What is the typical attitude (professors, other students) towards Jesus Christ in classrooms at TTU and other schools?



¹ www.religious.tolerance.org

² <http://www.atheists.org/flash.line/school3.htm>