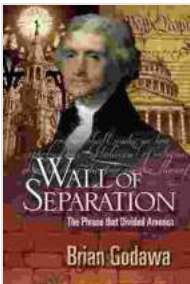


The Wall of Separation: The Phrase That Divided America

The phrase "wall of separation" between church and state has been a source of controversy in American history. This article explores the origins of the phrase, its meaning, and its impact on American law and society.



Wall of Separation: The Phrase that Divided America

by Brian Godawa

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Screen Reader : Supported
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Origins of the Phrase

The phrase "wall of separation" was first used by Thomas Jefferson in a letter to the Danbury Baptist Association in 1802. In this letter, Jefferson wrote that the government should not interfere in religious matters, and that there should be a "wall of separation" between the two.

Jefferson's letter was written in response to a request from the Danbury Baptists for the government to protect their religious freedom. The Baptists

were concerned that the government might establish a national religion, or that it might interfere in the practice of their religion.

Jefferson's letter was influential in the development of the First Amendment to the Constitution, which prohibits the government from establishing a religion or interfering with the free exercise of religion.

Meaning of the Phrase

The phrase "wall of separation" has been interpreted in different ways over the years. Some people believe that the phrase means that the government should not interfere in religious matters at all.

Others believe that the phrase means that the government should not favor one religion over another. They argue that the government can still support religion in general, as long as it does not favor any particular religion.

The Supreme Court has ruled that the phrase "wall of separation" means that the government cannot establish a religion or interfere with the free exercise of religion. However, the Court has also ruled that the government can provide support for religion in general, as long as it does not favor any particular religion.

Impact of the Phrase

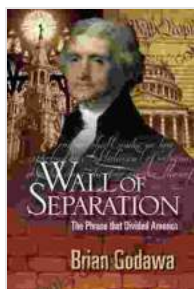
The phrase "wall of separation" has had a significant impact on American law and society. The phrase has been used to strike down laws that establish a religion or interfere with the free exercise of religion.

The phrase has also been used to protect religious freedom in other ways. For example, the Supreme Court has ruled that the government cannot

discriminate against religious schools or religious organizations.

The phrase "wall of separation" has been a source of controversy in American history. However, the phrase has also been used to protect religious freedom in America.

The phrase "wall of separation" between church and state is a complex and controversial issue. The phrase has been interpreted in different ways over the years, and it has had a significant impact on American law and society. The phrase is likely to continue to be a source of debate for many years to come.



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