

Supreme Court Allows Ban on Prayer to Stand



<http://www.dfamily.com/philosophy/teach/hswtl/journal.html>

["Sectarian prayers". What are they? Why does Judiciary object? Is this a PC issue or a Church/State issue? Meddle/Freedom conflict.] American History - 1700s

Supreme Court Allows Ban on Prayer to Stand

<http://newsmax.com/showinside.cover.shtml?a=2003/5/31/123127>

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California city and county governments can no longer open meetings with prayers - mention of God's name, even in non-denominational prayer, is banned thanks to a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court allowing decisions in favor of the ban by two lower California courts to stand.

[Isn't there a conflict with freedom of speech and a ruling (*this is not a law coming out the legislature*) telling us which words cannot be spoken?

Again, I wonder why we can't curb foul language?

I know we're thinking of the phantom "separation of church and state" as being the rational, but, is it possible Political Correctness might have even more to do with this?]

The ruling came in an appeal by the city of Burbank asking the High Court to reverse rulings that banned opening prayers at city council meetings, but legal experts say the ban now applies to all city and county governments, not merely to Burbank.

The controversy began in 1999 when a Mormon minister invoked the name of Jesus Christ at a council meeting and a local resident Irv Rubin, then chairman of the Jewish Defense League and Roberto Alejandro Gandara, identified by the Los Angeles Times as a supporter of strict church-state separation sued the city, demanding that such prayer be prohibited.

[Isn't it odd to realize a Mormon minister would have precipitated this?

If that was odd, Mr. Rubin of the Jewish Defense League is even more odd, or isn't it?.

Would a Jew care if we pray in the name of Jesus Christ?

Christians and Jews have the same Old Testament, and heritage. Is that bond not enough?

What if they are Hebrew or Islamic prayers? Were ONLY Christian prayers outlawed by decree?]

Rubin is now dead, but his widow Shelley told the Times that she would "be as vigilant as my husband was to make sure that every city in the state that is sponsoring sectarian prayers is wrong."

[First, why would anyone be SO concerned, that they would not only not want to hear Godly prayers in their presence, or in their city, but in every city in the state?
People interested in Political Correctness are concerned about what people think even if they are 1,000 miles away.
People worried about second hand smoke are concerned about people smoking in a restaurant 3 states away.
Why are free people so worried about what people they will never even hear about, do?
Is there a time to be concerned about what people you never will meet do?
How should this concern manifest itself?
How do we discern when to take on a "Sectarian prayers". Did you catch that? Can you pray a non "Sectarian prayer"?
Is it possible?]

Opponents of prayer at official meetings rejoiced over the Supreme Court decision. "We won at every possible, level, and it's incredible," attorney Roger Jon Diamond told the Times.

[Do laws define our philosophy / culture or does our culture define our laws?
In your opinion, since you haven't nearly enough facts to speak of the truth here, what do you believe had more influence over the judicial ruling? Constitutional law or our culture?
In either case, since the US is a Republic, where were the people in this equation?]

Since 1953 Burbank has had a tradition of opening meetings with a prayer by a member of a nondenominational ministerial association .

Non "Sectarian prayers" possible? Logically, probably not. A completely neutral prayer is, in essence, supporting and promoting neutral prayers (*humanistic*). Somebody, somewhere, is going to belong to some sort of religion which is going to be @ odds with your neutral prayer. Non-Logically, it probably can. The judiciary aren't necessarily grounded in logic and unmoved by our current culture. A non-Christian prayer would probably pass as non "Sectarian prayer".



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