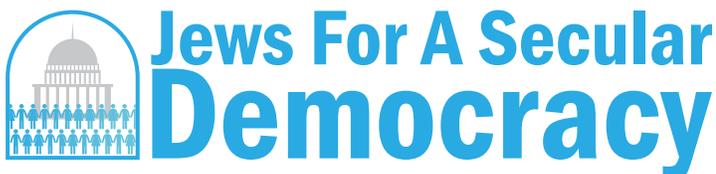


# Ten Modern Plagues That Threaten America's Separation of Religion and Government

- 1 Favoritism**  
Despite the constitutional prohibition against a national religion, court rulings and policies continue to favor one religion over others or none, for example by allowing federally-funded adoption agencies to discriminate against non-Protestants.<sup>1</sup>
- 2 Exclusion**  
By claiming crosses and other Christian iconography are “secular,” the courts erase Americans of other or no religions, as with the taxpayer-maintained Bladensburg Cross that supposedly represents all local WWI war dead yet excluded the names of Jewish soldiers.<sup>2</sup>
- 3 Discrimination**  
By twisting the notion of “religious freedom,” the government supports discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people in the commercial,<sup>3</sup> public,<sup>4</sup> and military<sup>5</sup> sectors.
- 4 Enforced Ignorance**  
Laws requiring school standards for secular subjects like science and English are not being enforced, allowing fundamentalist Christian schools to teach that man coexisted with dinosaurs<sup>6</sup> and fundamentalist Jewish schools to barely provide secular education at all.<sup>7</sup>
- 5 Diversion**  
Although religious organizations receive tax-exempt status in lieu of government funding—to maintain the separation of church and state—the government still seeks to divert funding to churches anyway, through grants for repairs<sup>8</sup> and school voucher programs.<sup>9</sup>
- 6 Obfuscation**  
Christian fundamentalists disguise their religious agenda as education, influencing local governments and school boards to teach intelligent design as science<sup>10</sup> and mandate bible courses in public schools.<sup>11</sup>
- 7 Meddling**  
State and federal government policies toward women’s reproductive rights and health care are increasingly influenced by a fundamentalist Christian religious approach, resulting in a sustained assault on Roe v. Wade.<sup>12</sup>
- 8 Denial**  
The urgency of addressing climate change is downplayed by government officials beholden to big polluting industries, who hide behind religious claims that we can “leave it in the hands of a much, much higher authority.”<sup>13</sup>
- 9 Subversion**  
Through a well-documented<sup>14</sup> plan by Christian supremacists, Project Blitz is a coordinated effort to overwhelm state and federal legislatures with bills promoting their religious agenda, such as anti-LGBTQ laws and requiring “In God We Trust” signs in all public schools.<sup>15</sup>
- 10 Privilege**  
In order to consolidate their already-strong sway over government, Christian fundamentalists seek to repeal the Johnson Amendment<sup>16</sup> that prevents non-profits including churches from endorsing political candidates; without it, unlimited dark money would pour into campaigns through churches and turn houses of worship into political tools.

**Passover is about freedom! America is supposed to be about freedom too!**

Help bring real religious freedom—freedom for **all** religions, and freedom **from** religious coercion—by demanding that the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution be upheld through a truly neutral, **secular** government.



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A Pluralistic Initiative of the Society for Humanistic Judaism

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