

Pastors and churches shouldn't live in fear of being punished or penalized by the government.

Under the First Amendment, a pastor, not the IRS, determines what his sermon will say.

Groups like Americans United intentionally trigger IRS investigations that will silence churches through fear, intimidation, and disinformation.

It's a contradiction for groups that say they believe in "separation of church and state" to say it's the role of the IRS to decide what pastors can talk about in church without being investigated.

A pastor's duty to speak truth from the pulpit is a duty owed to God, not the tax man.

The IRS shouldn't be allowed to violate the Constitution.

Churches were tax exempt long before the IRS even existed.

IRS rules don't trump the Constitution, and the First Amendment certainly trumps the Johnson Amendment.

Pastors spoke freely from the pulpit without worrying about tax exemptions until 1954. That's when Senator Lyndon Johnson amended the tax code to prohibit any speech about a political candidate.

There is no surer way to destroy religion than to begin taxing it. As the U.S. Supreme Court has noted, the power to tax involves the power to destroy. The real effect of the Johnson Amendment is that pastors are muzzled for fear of investigation by the IRS.

This is not about...

- turning the church into a political action committee
- allowing contributions to candidates
- any particular candidate or political party

This is about pastors taking a stand for religious freedom without fear of censorship by the government or worrying about jeopardizing their church's tax-exempt status.

If asked, "would you support the Rev. Jeremiah Wright?":

The First Amendment applies to everyone equally, regardless of whether you agree with what a person says. That's what this campaign is all about: ending threats designed to prevent pastors from exercising their First Amendment rights."

If asked, "Isn't it the church's job to take care of the poor and needy instead of talking about political candidates?"

"Churches certainly do minister to the poor and needy, but it's not the role of AU or the IRS to limit how churches apply the gospel."