

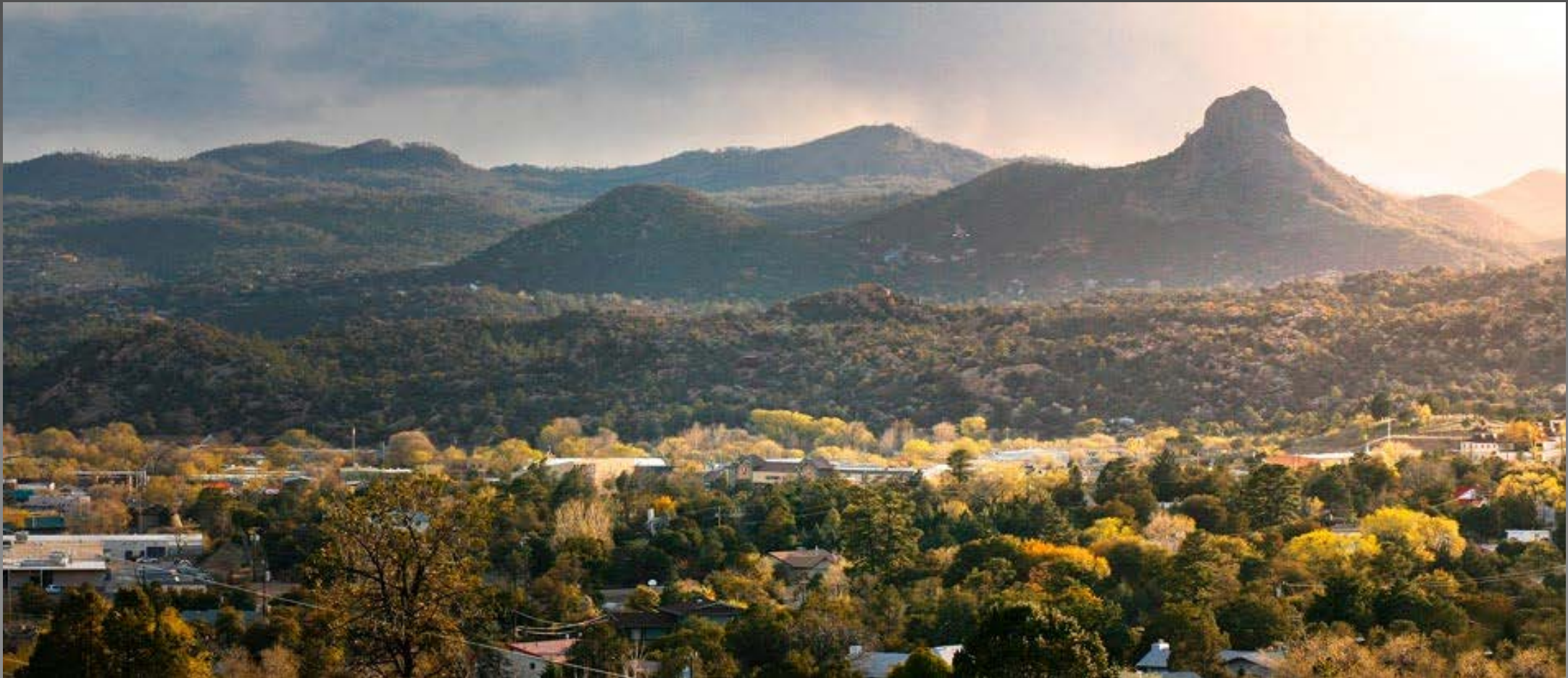
# WHY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM MATTERS TO ME

RELIGION MATTERS TO ME

BECAUSE  
IT IS WHO I AM

“Religion is central to human life, enmeshed in human experience, and integral to human fulfillment. Religion is so profoundly intertwined with human existence that it cannot be repressed except at the price of undermining individuality and disrupting society.”

# Prescott, Arizona (1960s) Pop. 19,200





# Courthouse and Bucky O'Neil





# July 4<sup>th</sup> - Patriots and Cowboys



WORLD'S OLDEST  
**RODEO**

# Boy Scouts – “I Will Do My Duty to God”





# Everyone Attended Church





# Arizona Boys State



BRIEFING SESSION . . . Shown discussing the forthcoming Boys' State with Bob Camp (back row left), Dennis Andrews, John Rodgers, Marc Burhans (back row left), Bill Atkin, David Palmer, and Bob Mosier. Boys' State chairman for the local American Legion, are Harold Tenney (front row left), and Bob Mosier.

(Courier Photo by John Schroeder)

- TWO METHODISTS
- TWO EPISCOPALIAN
- ONE CATHOLIC
- TWO MORMONS

50 years later . . . .



Washington Elementary School  
Prescott, Arizona

- What has changed in the past 50 years?
- What awaits my grandchildren?

This is why religious freedom matters to me!!!



ARE WE LIVING IN A  
POST-CHRISTIAN NATION?

# What has changed in the past 50 years?

- Increasing Secularism
- Declining Religiosity
- Culture Wars

# CULTURE WARS – THE SEXUAL REVOLUTION

- No-fault Divorce
- Abortion
- Declining Marriage Rates
- LGBTQ Movement
- Transgender Issues



# CULTURE WARS – RELIGION LOST?

- The Moral Majority of the 1980's is now a Moral Minority
- Some observers: “America is populated by an immoral majority”

# MY GRANDCHILDRENS' CHALLENGES – NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

- PARENTING
- EDUCATION
- EMPLOYMENT
- PARTICIPATION IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE

# PARENTING

- Will they be allowed to teach their religion to their children without concern that the state will remove their children from the home?
- Will they be able to adopt children or provide foster care if their religious beliefs are contrary to the governing political or cultural norms of the day?
- Will they be able to make religious decisions on behalf of their children (*e.g.*, circumcision, baptism, bar mitzvah, religious education)?”
- Will they have the right to opt out of certain social or school programs that might teach their children concepts contrary to their religious beliefs?
- Will they be able to home school their children?



# EDUCATION

- Will attendance at a religious university disqualify them from graduate schools and/or becoming licensed professionals because of their religious beliefs?
- Will they become ineligible for government-funded scholarships because of their choice of religious studies?

# EMPLOYMENT

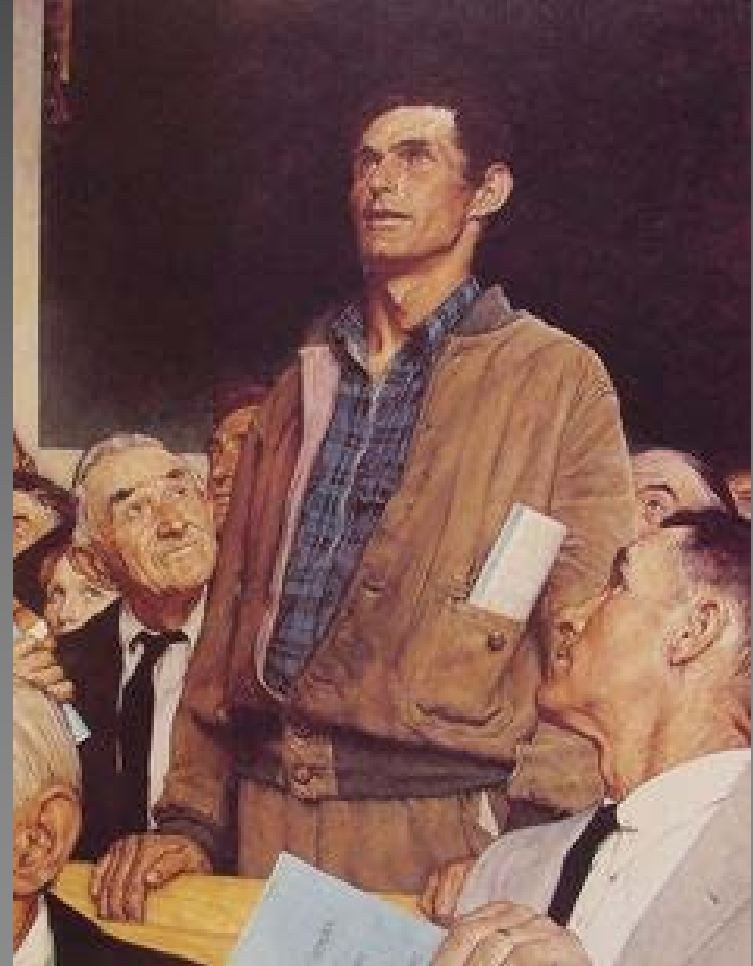
- Will they be able to earn an honest living as health care professionals, social workers, teachers, attorneys, and civil servants without abandoning their religious beliefs?
- Will they be denied employment advancement or tenure because of their religious beliefs?

# EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

“In the days that come, circumstances will compel Christians – particularly those in certain professions – to rethink our relationship to our work. We will be shown the door in some cases because of our beliefs. In others, the doors will never open in the first place – and if they do, men and women of conscience will not be able to walk through them. This is going to cost us money and prestige and perhaps vocational satisfaction.” The Benedict Option

# PARTICIPATION IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE

- Will they be able to express their opinions on public policy even if based on their religious beliefs?
- Will they be allowed to hold public office if their religious beliefs do not align with political and cultural norms?





HOW CAN I PRESERVE RELIGIOUS  
FREEDOM FOR MY GRANDCHILDREN?

Founding Fathers understood the necessity of religion and civic virtue for a healthy democracy



“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”



JOHN ADAMS

“[N]o nation has ever yet existed or been governed without religion. Nor can [it] be.”



THOMAS JEFFERSON



Man's duty to honor God  
“is precedent both in order  
of time and degree of  
obligation to the claims of  
civil society. Before any  
man can be considered as a  
member of civil society he  
must be considered as a  
subject of the Governor of  
the universe.”



JAMES MADISON

“The societies in which many of us live have for more than a generation failed to foster moral discipline. They have taught that truth is relative and that everyone decides for himself or herself what is right. . . . In the end, it is only an internal moral compass in each individual that can effectively deal with the root causes as well as the symptoms of societal decay. Societies will struggle in vain to establish the common good until sin is denounced as sin and moral discipline takes its place in the pantheon of civic virtues.”



ELDER D. TODD  
CHRISTOFFERSON

“As a consequence, self-discipline has eroded and societies are left to try to maintain order and civility by compulsion. The lack of internal control by individuals breeds external control by governments. . . . There could never be enough rules so finely crafted as to anticipate and cover every situation, and even if there were, enforcement would be impossibly expensive and burdensome. This approach leads to **diminished freedom for everyone.**”



ELDER D. TODD  
CHRISTOFFERSON

To preserve religious freedom, we must restore religion and civic virtue at the individual, family and community level.



# A Voice of Warning



President James E. Faust

“We must hold to our beliefs and do what we can, for there is no desert to flee to in order to have full freedom. There is no place across the waters for the Pilgrims.”