

**Selected quotes by James Madison about the separation of church and state: School voucher advocates should re-evaluate their position on vouchers.**

*“The purpose of separation of church and state is to keep forever from these shores the ceaseless strife that has soaked the soil of Europe with blood for centuries.”*

The union of church and state in Europe resulting in bloody warfare for centuries was no doubt a strong factor in the minds of our forefathers as they adopted governance documents for the nation.

*“Strongly guarded as is the separation between Religion and Government in the Constitution of the United States, the danger of encroachment by Ecclesiastical Bodies may be illustrated by precedents already furnished in their short history.”*

Madison’s warnings about encroachment by ecclesiastical bodies were no doubt based on what was starting to transpire in that era. In early America some religious groups demanded tax support for their private religious schools. Public officials resisted tax money being allocated to private religious schools until recent decades.

*“Who does not see that the same authority which can establish Christianity, in exclusion of all other Religions, may establish with the same ease any particular sect of Christians, in exclusion of all other Sects?”*

Citizens should pay attention to the religious and secular groups currently being organized to take control of government in the United States.

*“Religion flourishes in greater purity, without than with the aid of Government.”*

When the government subsidizes religion, religious convictions are compromised. Government will ultimately regulate, with the dominant religious body forcing its doctrinal positions on all!

*“Because we hold it for 'a fundamental and undeniable truth', that religion or 'the duty which we owe to our Creator' and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence.”*

Tax-supported vouchers for religious education forces taxpayers to fund religious tenets with which they may not agree.