

Primary Source Packet on Religion/Religious Liberty

Quote 1

“That our civil rights have no dependance on our religious opinions, any more than on our opinions in physicks or geometry. ... We the General Assembly of *Virginia* do enact, that no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any relig[i]ous Worship, place or Ministry whatsoever, nor shall be enforced, restrained, molested, or burthened in his body or goods, nor shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinions or belief, but that all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain their opinions in matters of religion, and that the same shall in no wise diminish, enlarge, or affect their civil capacities.”

<http://tjrs.monticello.org/letter/56> Excerpt from Jefferson’s “Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom”

Quote 2

“Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between Man & his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legitimate powers of government reach actions only, & not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should ‘make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,’ thus building a wall of separation between Church & State.”

<http://tjrs.monticello.org/letter/199> Extract from Thomas Jefferson to the Baptist Association of Danbury, CT, January 1, 1802

Quote 3

“we have solved, by fair experiment, the great & interesting question Whether freedom of religion is compatible with order in government, and obedience to the laws. & we have [---] experienced the quiet as well as the comfort which results from leaving every one to profess freely & openly those principles of religion which are the inductions of his own reason. & the serious convictions of his own enquiries.”

<http://tjrs.monticello.org/letter/2386> Extract from Thomas Jefferson to VA Baptist Association of Chesterfield, Nov. 21, 1808

Quote 4

“of all the systems of morality antient or modern, which have come under my observation, none appear to me so pure as that of Jesus.”

<http://tjrs.monticello.org/letter/296> Letter to William Canby, Monticello, September 13, 1813

# Th. Jefferson MONTICELLO

Source 5

Thomas Jefferson cut verses from six copies of the New Testament to create his own personal version. (Hugh Talman / NMAH, SI)

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/secretary-clough-on-jeffersons-bible-72748111/#RJMFee3hEZs60AZ6.99>

