

Separation with
strong state church
traditions. for over



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Separation of Church and State I. Introduction Do you think that the separation of church and state is more beneficial than it is detrimental? This is very controversial topic due to there being many pros and cons for the separation of church and state. The phrase ‘ wall of separation between church and state” was created by Thomas Jefferson in a letter he wrote to the Danbury Baptist Association in 1802, in which he portrayed his comprehension of the significance of the religious provisos of the First Amendment. In Canada, there are no laws dividing religion and government from each other but I believe there should be.

However, the pervasiveness and impact of American culture and media has brought about this metaphor being held onto by numerous Canadians as their favoured articulation of religion-state relations. When the French and British came to explore and colonize the New World, they came with strong state church traditions. For over two hundred years, Upper Canada was dominated by Christianity and lower Canada was controlled by the Roman Catholic Church. Due to there not being anything written within Canada’s constitution that legitimately separates church from state it becomes very easy for the two to intermingle. This can cause many problems and makes it more difficult for either the government or religious institutions to accomplish tasks without the other getting involved. The Canadian government and religions should properly separate themselves from each other because of how beneficial it is overall.

A legitimate separation of Church and state has many advantages to it and would be important for Canada because it reduces discrimination between people of other religions, it benefits both religion and government by

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stopping them from interfering with each other, and it would make it easier to pass legislation. II. Separation Reduces Discrimination The separation between religion and government reduces discrimination within societies. If church and state are not separated it creates discrimination within societies because the most popular religion could be more dominant. In all countries, there is one religion that reigns supreme among its people. If there is no separation, it would cause countries to favour that one religion and all other religions would not get the same treatment. An example of this is happening is evident in countries such as Canada and Australia. Religious institutions do not get taxed, nevertheless this is only possible if the government believes that the religion is relevant or legitimate.

This means that smaller religions do not get the same treatment as the bigger ones causing discrimination. Churches in Montreal, Canada are being required to now pay council tax, even though houses of worship were absolved from paying expenses. By law, houses of worship in Montreal don't need to pay civil duties. However a little known proviso implies numerous houses of worship are presently being looked with heightening expenses. Also, in countries where there is one favoured religion, people of other religions get discriminated against.

This is seen in countries such as Myanmar where there is church and state relations. The government, which is Buddhist, is massacring the rohingya people which is because they are of the Islamic religion and the Buddhists are not welcoming them in Myanmar. Many people are being killed, villages are being burned down and people are being forced to leave the country all because a religion is control of the country. If there was a separation
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between church and state, this conflict would not have happened. Syria, and North Korea are other countries where freedom of religion is under attack. People of other religions are being discriminated against in these countries with a state religion by having their churches being burned down, people are being injured and some even killed.

Finally, religious values are personal beliefs, and every individual may have a different view on religion or may have a different religion than most others. Religion should not be something forced upon someone, and people should not be told what is right and wrong to believe in. A case where other religions were discriminated against was in 1988 when a man named David Attis sent a complaint about a school teacher in New Brunswick who was making racial slurs about Jewish people. Although what the teacher did is against school policies, he was allowed to keep his job without any punishment. If there was a separation properly implemented, everyone would be viewed as equal and you would not be able to discriminate other religions and get away with it because of a more popular religion. Overall, if Canada separated religion from politics it would reduce the chance of discrimination by allowing everyone to be treated equally no matter what religion they believe in. Many problems occur in Canada where people are treated unfairly because of what they believe in, but religion is something personal to each individual and should not be a reason to treat others differently. With the separation, the chances of discrimination occurring are greatly reduced because there is not one dominant religion.

III. The Separation Benefits Religion If there is separation between church and not only would the government benefit from it, but so would religion. This <https://assignbuster.com/separation-with-strong-state-church-traditions-for-over/>

may sound shocking to some because it is widely conceived that the separation solely is better only for the government.

However, that is false, the separation benefits church just as much as it does state. The separation of church and state prevents the government from meddling with religious activities. An example of this was seen in 2014 when a man named rand wall was kicked out of his Jehovah's witness church. He had been abusing alcohol, verbally abusing his wife, and had insufficient repentance which all violated the terms of the church. Randy then went to the Alberta court of Queens Bench and had gotten them to review this case and gotten him back into his church. The court had no right to be involved with this situation but they were allowed to because there was no separation between church and state. In addition, separating state from church would allow the promotion of human rights.

Every person should have the basic human rights but some religions do not consider these rights. This can be seen through extremists such as those in the Islamic religion known as Isis which believes in honour killings and that women do not have any rights. About 640 young women, some of which are younger than the age of 12, are being held as sex slaves by ISIS members. One girl that was found as a sex slave was as young as one years old. If any of these girls are found trying to escape or manage to return back to their families, they would be murdered and it would be considered an honour killing. All of these actions are done in the name of their God, " in the name of Allah." This may not seem relevant to why Canada should separate church from state, but many people in Canada commit honour killing thinking it is fine to do because it says so in their religion.

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A case of this was seen in Mississauga, Ontario when a sixteen year old Pakistani girl by the name of Aqsa Parvez was murdered by her brother and father. She wanted to get a job and wear western style clothes, but that was seen as a disgrace to her family so she was killed, and it was seen as a honour killing. If church and state were separated in Canada, laws could be properly implemented stating that no sort of killings, even for religious purposes, are allowed in Canada. Finally, separating church from state promotes the freedom to choose and follow any religion you want.

If there was one state religion you may be forced to follow one religion, and it could potentially be dangerous for you if you do not follow that religion. Numerous Canadians hold no religious convictions. Of those people, an expanding number favour that the state should be absolutely secular and without any religious convenience. As stated in the 1991 Canadian National Census, 12% of Canadians declared “ no religion” as their religious character. After twenty years in 2011, that assignment had multiplied to 24% or one-fourth of Canadians declaring “ no religion”. With the separation, you would be allowed to to be apart of any religion and the people of that religion would be safe to practice it. All in all, by Canada separating state from church, religions are benefited by stopping the government from meddling with them and protecting human rights. Since there is no official separation preventing the government from interfering with religious institutions, the government is allowed to tax churches even though they never have been before.

It would also promote human rights which religions are mainly about. Also, without there being any church and state relations, it allows people to <https://assignbuster.com/separation-with-strong-state-church-traditions-for-over/>

choose whichever religion they want. Religions would be able to promote themselves and gain more followers. IV. The Separation Makes it Easier to Pass Legislation The separation between church and state is beneficial because it makes it easier to pass legislation. If there were no separation between church and state then it is possible that one religion would be more favoured than other religions and trying to create laws would be more difficult. Each religion believes in something different, In every religions sacred scripture it says what is expected of their God.

This would make it harder to pass legislation because a law could potentially go against a religions belief. Passing a law such as same sex marriage would be difficult because it goes against many religions. Religions such as Catholicism and Islam have opposing views or completely forbid same sex marriage. Also, women in many religions have no rights or power. A country in controlled by a religion with views like this would make it difficult to create laws for women rights.

Examples of this current day are seen in countries such as saudi arabia and syria. Women in these countries do not have the basic rights such as obtaining an education, voting, speaking to men, or even competing in sports. In conclusion, it would be very difficult to create laws if there is no separation between church and state because a law that may work with one religion may not work with another causing a problem. V. Conclusion “ Religion and government will both exist in greater purity, the less they are mixed together”-James Madison. Segregating religion from government would be significant for Canada because it would be difficult to create laws if there were no separation, it lessens inequalities in religions, and religion is <https://assignbuster.com/separation-with-strong-state-church-traditions-for-over/>

benefited from the separation as well. Separating church and state in Canada diminishes discrimination because it removes the state being bias towards one religion and the attack of other religion.

Also, religion benefits from the separation due to stopping the government from interfering with religious activities, promotes human rights, and promotes the freedom to choose any religion. Finally, the separation makes it more simple to pass laws. This is true because it is possible to create a law without worrying about it going against a religion or causing any problems. The separation of church and state is valuable to all people. It grants you the freedom to be apart of any religion or to not follow any religion at all.

It stops people from being binded to one religion and allows societies to further develop.