

## Testimony in Favor of House Concurrent Resolution 3020

Members of the North Dakota Legislative Council,

Thank you for considering this resolution, it is an encouragement to see legislators standing up for the objective truth of the Scriptures. I affirm the Biblical evidence used in this resolution to affirm the all-encompassing Lordship of Jesus Christ. It is true that not only in a religious book, but in time and space history Jesus Christ, the son of God affirmed the truth that He has all Authority in heaven and on earth. (Matthew 28:18-20). He possesses and exercises this Authority by virtue of the fact that He is indeed God, the second person of the Trinity, (Psalm 45:7; Romans 1:4) and by the express delegation of His Father; an agreement from before the creation of the world. (Psalm 2:8). This is no new teaching, the entire history of redemption (and therefore reality as we know it) has revolved around the God-Man Jesus Christ.

As far as I can tell the main opposition to this resolution is the misconceived idea that it would violate the first amendment. This couldn't be further from the truth. This comes from a misreading of the first amendment and from a misunderstanding about the nature of reality.

The first misunderstanding by those who oppose on the basis of the first amendment is that they think that the first amendment prohibits any religion from entering into the public sphere or being acknowledged in any way by the state. In other words they think that the separation of Church and State means that the state must be "neutral" or atheistic. This is not what the first amendment means. The First amendment says that "Congress shall make no law respecting an *establishment* of religion", this resolution simply doesn't do that. The first amendment is meant to protect the Institution of the civil government from mixing with the Institution of the Church and so as to have one or the other confused. Violations of Church and State would include activities such as a Church passing house bills by the vote of the Pastors in a given congregation or the State requiring dress codes for the deacons during Church services. This resolution would do no such thing. Furthermore, the idea of functional separation of Church and State as institutions is something that came from the Bible as reflected in the kingdom of Israel per God's decree. (2 Chronicles 19:11 and 26:16-21). On the Basis of Scripture Christians can say that that it is good to have Church and State as separate institutions. Someone who rejects Christ, and therefore the Scriptures has no basis to appeal to in order to support the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment (other than their own biased opinion).

The second misconception by those who oppose this resolution is the foolish presupposition they hold, namely, that any person or entity can be religiously "neutral". No matter what anyone believes, it is impossible to be religiously neutral. Matthew 12:30 (the words of Jesus) says: "He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters." For the case of Logical argumentation people can be divided into two categories: Christians and Non-Christians. Non-Christians are not religiously neutral. They can try to be neutral as hard as they want to but as long as they are not a Christian, they have chosen to show partiality against at least one religion: Christianity. The requirement for Christianity is that you be fully dedicated to the Lordship of Christ, or you are not a Christian. The person that is demanding "neutrality" in the government is not demanding to total neutrality, but rather they are demanding anything except Christianity. This is not neutral by anyone's standard; this is a biased religious view point. If the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment were to mean you couldn't show any religious bias in matters of Government, it would violate the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment to be any form of Non-Christian, just as much as it would to be Christian.

I want to urge you to support this resolution. Jesus Christ is Lord of every sphere of this world. There is an inescapable concept we must face, a question of not whether but which. Who will we submit to as king of North Dakota? Jesus is The True King of all creation, both the institution of the Church and the State. If you oppose this, you are opposing what the God who created you says about reality.

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If you have any questions for me please reach out.  
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