



THE PULPIT INITIATIVE **LETTER OF INTENT**

“Pulpit Freedom Sunday” is a project of the Alliance Defense Fund and will be held on Sunday, September 28, 2008. On that day, participating pastors will preach sermons specifically reclaiming their right to speak Scriptural truth from the pulpit. It is the first step in a concerted effort to reclaim freedom for the pulpit — the “Pulpit Initiative.”

Historically, churches have emphatically, and with great passion, spoken Scriptural truth from the pulpit about government and culture. Historians have stated that America owes its independence in great degree to the moral force of the pulpit. Pastors have proclaimed Scriptural truth throughout history on great moral issues such as slavery, women’s suffrage, child labor and prostitution. Pastors have also spoken from the pulpit with great frequency for and against various candidates for government office.

All that changed in 1954 with the passage of the “Johnson amendment” which restricted the right of churches and pastors to speak Scriptural truth about candidates for office. The Johnson amendment was proposed by then-Senator Lyndon Johnson, and it changed the Internal Revenue Code to prohibit churches and other non-profit organizations from supporting or opposing a candidate for office. After the Johnson amendment passed, churches faced a choice of either continuing their tradition of speaking out or silencing themselves in order to retain their church’s tax exemption.

The Internal Revenue Service, in conjunction with radical organizations like Americans United for Separation of Church and State, have used the Johnson amendment to create an atmosphere of intimidation and fear for any church that dares to speak Scriptural truth about candidates for office. It is time for the intimidation and threats to end. Churches and pastors have a constitutional right to speak freely and truthfully from the pulpit, even on candidates and voting, without fearing loss of their tax exemption.

We are seeking pastors to exercise their constitutional right to preach from the pulpit a sermon that will address the candidates for government office in light of the truth of Scripture on Sunday, September 28, 2008. If the church is investigated for exercising its constitutional rights, ADF will represent the church to vindicate its constitutional rights. In so doing, it is our hope to recapture the rightful place of pastors and churches in American life.

If you are interested in being considered to participate in this project, please call ADF at (800) TELL-ADF or visit our website at www.telladf.org/church to let us know of your interest.

ADF does not endorse or oppose political parties or candidates, nor does it urge allegiance to any political party or candidate. ADF does believe that churches and pastors have the freedom to plainly speak Scriptural truth about the qualifications of candidates for public office regardless of the candidate’s political affiliation.

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