

April 30, 2004

One Nation, Under God

A staggering eighty-five percent of Americans consider themselves Christians, which amounts to almost a quarter of a billion people. With that many people professing to believe in God, how can one man manage to remove the phrase “under God” from the pledge of allegiance?

The case of *Elk Grove Unified School District v. Newdow* brought up the argument about the constitutionality of public school students reciting the pledge and whether this is contrary to the first amendment because it contains the phrase “under God”. *Newdow* claims this expression violates the establishment clause, which states “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion”.

The pledge of allegiance is not a spiritual act, nor is it a violation of the establishment clause. The pledge is simply a patriotic statement that recognizes the assistance of God in our country’s affairs. The pledge, like other significant documents such as the National Anthem, the Declaration of Independence, and the Gettysburg Address, mentions God because individuals searching for religious freedom from England established our country.

The constitution was designed to protect the exact opposite of what *Newdow* is attempting to destroy. It was written to keep the government from becoming too big and restricting the freedoms of the people, not to limit their liberty by controlling what say. It is a brilliant political document that preserves the sovereignty of all U.S. citizens.

The *Newdow* case should have never been brought to court. The pledge infringes no constitutional amendments. In fact if it were to be removed, then Christians would have an acceptable lawsuit. This would forbid them from acknowledging God. That is a sin and a

violation of the free exercise clause. If the phrase “under God” offends some then they don’t have to say that part of the pledge.

If Christians were more active in local, state and national politics a case like this would have been rejected at the lowest level of court. The only way to reverse this decision is for the eighty-five percent of Americans to contact their government leaders and express their feelings on the matter. Politicians listen if enough people speak up and a quarter of a billion people are more than enough.

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