

## DEFENDING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

WITH KELLY SHACKELFORD

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### Who is Kelly Shackelford

- Mr. Shackelford is the President, CEO, and Chief Counsel of First Liberty Institute, a non-profit organization that defends religious freedom.

“You know, we have a lot of Christian pastors, but we could sure use some more Christian lawyers.” - *Kelly Shackelford*

### The Importance of Religious Freedom

- Religious Freedom is a foundational right that impacts all of our other freedoms.
- It is important to recognize that religious freedom is not exclusive to religious individuals but applies to everyone!

### Defending Religious Freedom

- First Liberty Institute handles cases that have in the past, and have the potential in the future, to set important legal precedents.
- Victories in these cases benefit not just the individuals involved but also the broader population.
- There is a positive trend of increasing judicial support for protecting religious freedom.

### The Separation of Church and State

- The term “separation of church and state” is not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution, but was in a letter from Thomas Jefferson 10yrs after.
- It is often misused and misunderstood, leading to attempts to restrict religious freedom.
- The true meaning of the concept is to prevent the establishment of a national religion and to avoid government interference in religious matters.
- It does not mean that people are restricted from talking about their faith in a public area.



### Church Resources and Support

- First Liberty Institute provides religious liberty protection kits for churches or nonprofits.
- Various pamphlets and resources are also available for teachers, students, and faith-based for-profit businesses.
- Individuals should not be intimidated or discouraged from exercising their religious freedom, as the law is on their side.

“Don’t be intimidated out of doing what God’s calling you to do, because the law is on our side.” - *Kelly Shackelford*

### RESOURCES

- [Free Church Resources](#)
- [Watch the GrowLeader Podcast](#)
- [Monthly Mentoring with Pastor Chris](#)
- [Financial One-Day Conference](#)
- [GrowLeader Regionals](#)
- [Ask PC Your Questions](#)
- [Develop a Kingdom Builders or Legacy Team](#)
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