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Subject:	comments on 990 exemptions
Date:	Friday, September 11, 2015 5:38:51 PM

As a member of the Freedom From Religion Foundation I take exception to the tax benefits that are allowed to religious organizations in the U.S., which operate as religious businesses, and market their services to their members for Tithe or other remunerations. I am not against any religious organization that has the constitutional right to practice their beliefs as they see fit in buildings that are paid for by their members, not subsidized by the public, who may or may not agree with the teachings of the religions. They vast number of tax payers really don't think about how religious organizations are being subsidized by not paying taxes as operating business must. I belief this should be changed to bring into alignment religious businesses with other types of businesses, primarily because they benefit from the social infrastructure that supports their buildings, traffic, policing, infrastructure maintenance of roads, bridges, other general maintenance costs.

All non-profit organizations should be treated equally, regardless of whether they espouse an atheist position, or a religious position. Currently the IRS singles out churches for privileged treatment by exempting them from the disclosure requirements all other 501(c)(3) organizations must comply with, or lose their exemption. Taxpayers, who are subsidizing tax-exempt groups, have a right to know what entities are exempt from taxation and to review general financial disclosures. The privilege of not being taxed must come with some measures of accountability.

Please make churches conform to the same IRS requirements as all other 501(c)(3) groups. At a minimum, the IRS should require any organizations that claim to be religious organizations, to file an annual notice with the IRS that they are claiming tax exemption.

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