From: Dale Reynolds
To: Preston Christie A
Subject: Tax and Churches
Date: Friday, September 11, 2015 5:54:51 PM

Dear Ms. Preston,

Each day that goes by carries yet another story of religious organizations getting involved in the political realm. Pastors are telling their congregation who to vote for and who to protest against, and they demonize those on the left as “sinners”. Televangelists rake in MILLIONS of dollars, purportedly to help the poor and sick, when in fact they spend the money on private jet planes and mansions.

We have Presidential candidates who are saying on national TV that the religious community need only obey those laws they agree with, and ignore those that they feel go against their religion.

I believe that everyone in the U.S. has the right to support or NOT to support a major organized religion. But it is not right that these people should enjoy tax-free lives when everyone else has to chip in.

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.

And any church that defies law and politicizes their sermons and activities should have their tax-free exemption removed IMMEDIATELY. The far right will almost certainly call your actions “an assault on Christians”, but be assured that there are millions of citizens out there who are sick of the church’s hypocrisy and would support your move.

Sincerely,

Dale Reynolds
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