

Imagine. You are on a boat in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. You don't have much food, and storms are nearly tearing your ship apart. When you finally land, you and your companions are foreigners, aliens in a strange land. Many of your companions are dying of disease. All these trials and more you have endured to make it to this land, to be able to worship freely and openly with your family. Why? Religious liberty is one of the most important rights you have. If you cannot worship freely, you are forced to live your life as if you aren't part of a religion. Your religion can be so intertwined with who you are, with your inmost being, that it is a lie to live as if it is not affecting you.

Religious liberty. Granted by the First Amendment, it is the right to be able to worship anywhere. This allows prayer in locker rooms, in the public square, around flagpoles, anywhere you feel like worshipping or praying, you can worship or pray there. America was built on religious liberty, was created as a place for people to worship how they like, to worship whatever god they want, whether it's Christ or another deity. Other nations have no such thing as religious liberty, they make you practice your religion in your own home, or even may not let you do that. Certain nations have outlawed the Bible entirely, meaning that possession of one is a crime punishable by imprisonment or even death. This is a very archaic way of ruling. Not having religious freedom is essentially going back to the middle ages, where the king dictated what religion you were. If the king said you must be Catholic, you were Catholic. If the king said you must be Protestant, you were Protestant. You had no choice but to follow these rules, unless you wanted to be imprisoned in a dark hole or be executed. That's what is so special about religious liberty, we are allowed to worship whatever we want. We have the freedom to go to church, to have prayer meetings in public, to talk about your faith to your friends. That's why America is so special. It was one of the first nations to implement religious liberty, and that sparked a change in the world.

However, America has recently begun a trend of not allowing us our full religious liberty. Christian employers have been forced to provide health care for their employees. Now, health care is not bad in and of itself, but when the healthcare you are forced to provide includes sex changes and other surgical procedures that may violate your beliefs, it begins to be more clear that it is a violation of your religious liberty. We can only hope and pray that our religious liberty does not deteriorate any more.

America was and is a nation founded on religious liberty, and we can only hope that it stays that way. As for now, things look grim. The importance of religious liberty is something that we should all fight for.