



**HERE IS THE
CHURCH**

SpeakUpMovement.org



**HERE IS THE STEEPLE,
OPEN THE DOORS...**

The once vibrant freedom of the Church to boldly proclaim spiritual liberty through the Gospel of Jesus Christ – a God-given freedom guaranteed by the First Amendment – is under growing attack from those who would silence any expression of God's truth.

Overstatement? Sadly, no.

The government's promotion and enforcement of regulations that suppress the Church's right to free exercise of religion is growing – urged on by anti-Christian groups who seek to muzzle people of faith. Pastors are too often restrained from freely preaching biblical truth.

What form do these aggressions take? In many cases, they come as attacks on our most basic religious freedoms.

“The Church’s assignment is to be the moral and cultural conscience of the nation.”

Bishop Harry Jackson, Jr.
CHURCH OF HOPE Beltsville, Maryland

What form do these aggressions take? **IN MANY CASES, THEY COME AS ATTACKS ON OUR MOST BASIC RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS.**

Freedom to exercise **RELIGIOUS BELIEFS**

- State and Federal governments are interfering with the Church’s application of biblical standards to internal discipline and employment practices.
- Worship services are being disrupted by protestors who trespass or block access to church property.

Freedom of **SPEECH**

- Threats of IRS audits and enforcement are being used to intimidate and restrain pastors who want to speak to their congregations – from a scriptural basis – about the positions of political candidates on moral issues.
- State governments are implementing state campaign finance laws that attempt to treat churches as political action committees if their leaders encourage participation in political activities such as signing petitions.

Freedom of **ACCESS**

- Discriminatory policies are being used to deny churches equal access to public venues that other groups utilize without restriction or penalty.
- Zoning restrictions and land-use ordinances are being established that specifically discriminate against churches – restricting when and where services may be held.

All over America, religious liberty is under attack. Church pastors and leaders must be bold and courageous to stand for the Truth so that the voice of the Church is unleashed, and our culture is transformed by the life-changing message of Jesus Christ.

Society will not long survive without a strong, vibrant, and fully engaged Church. Yet many pastors today are unaware of – or elect to deny – the growing persecution. Still, examples are everywhere, including:

- **NEW ORLEANS** – A church group providing free food for people who had lost their homes to Hurricane Katrina was ordered to stop its ministry because the group offered a voluntary prayer service and Bible study.
- **NEW JERSEY** – State officials attempted to revoke the tax-exempt status of a worship pavilion owned by the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association of the United Methodist Church after they declined a request to hold a same-sex “civil union” ceremony there.
- **NEW YORK CITY** – The school board – denying constitutional protections of equal access to public property – has been trying for nearly two decades to block an inner-city church from meeting in a public school building for worship services on Sundays.

Be assured, those who oppose the Church and the biblical tenets for which it stands will not hesitate to exploit every opportunity to intimidate, frustrate, and litigate against anyone whose words and actions threaten their worldview.

Reversing this troubling trend requires more than a strong defense. Pastors and church leaders must be willing to stand up, and speak up, to reclaim and secure the right of the Church to be the Church.

“It’s not enough to be an advocate of something ... you must be an outward advocate. We can no longer be silent. If we don’t speak up as pastors, no one is going to speak up.”

Dr. David Jeremiah
SHADOW MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY CHURCH
El Cajon, California



**OPEN THE
DOORS?**



“One of the great challenges is being true to the Word of God and true to the culture into which you’re preaching it. You can’t preach the Word of God truthfully without preaching with courage.”

The Reverend Dr. John Guest
CHRIST CHURCH GROVE FARM Sewickly, Pennsylvania

SPEAK UP

The Alliance Defense Fund is a legal alliance established to defend the right to hear and speak the Truth of the Gospel. We work diligently to foster and defend an environment where churches and pastors are free to speak, act, and minister in accordance with biblical principles without fear of facing government censorship, punishment, or unlawful regulation.

The doors of the Church must be opened. The voice of the Church must be unleashed.

If you as a pastor or church leader are facing legal challenges that impede your ability to freely speak, act, and minister in accordance with biblical principles, ADF stands at the ready to help.

To learn more, visit www.SpeakUpMovement.org
[Twitter.com/SpeakUpChurch](https://twitter.com/SpeakUpChurch) • [Facebook.com/SpeakUpChurch](https://facebook.com/SpeakUpChurch)

You can also contact the Alliance Defense Fund directly by calling
1-800-TELL-ADF

ABOUT SPEAK UP The Speak Up movement is a resource for pastors, ministry leaders, and lay leaders who want nothing more than the freedom to speak, act, and minister in accordance with biblical principles. Speak Up offers information, encouragement, and a forum for discussion among those most concerned about, and working to preserve, our religious liberties.

ABOUT THE ALLIANCE DEFENSE FUND The Alliance Defense Fund is a legal alliance defending the right to hear and speak the Truth. Since our nation's birth, religious liberty has been the bedrock principle upon which our society thrives. Yet those opposed to religious freedom are using the courts to aggressively erect legal barriers that directly undermine the meaning of the First Amendment and threaten the Church's constitutionally guaranteed freedoms. Through our unique legal alliance, ADF is committed to vigorously protecting and preserving that freedom.

A RESOURCE OF THE ALLIANCE DEFENSE FUND

