

About 501 (c) 3 Government approved Churches

If you are a 501 (c) 3 Government approved *IRS Tax Exempt* non-profit Church or Religious entity, the agent representing your church becomes “by your application” a new Government agent and your church becomes Government Church. As such you will be required to be in compliance with all corporate requirements that the Government may place upon you.

It is our strong belief that Churches and all Religious type Societies should NEVER be formed as a Government approved 501 (C) 3 corporate entity. Many Churches are formed this way because they have been told there is a tax benefit for doing so. Some may have been formed this way to hide themselves under the State Approved Corporate veil to reduce their liability. The sad thing is, that most of the members that formed such churches are just plain ignorant of their 1st Amendment Religious rights. The fact: Churches are already *Tax Exempt* if they claim their rights under the 1st Amendment of the US Constitution. 1st Amendment Churches DO NOT require Government approval to exist or to form, or to be Tax Exempt. The 1st Amendment of the US Constitution provides an automatic “exempt status” for all religious societies such as Churches. This exemption is fully recognized by the IRS, *See IRS Publication 557 (3/2005), Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization*, provided that such entities meet the requirements for a Church or a Religious entity and then acts and *performs* accordingly.

Not only are Religious Societies like Churches (claimed under the 1st Amendment of the Constitution) already tax exempt, they also become immune from laws infringing on their right to assemble as a Religious Society, and are able to teach their religious doctrinal fundamentals even if not politically acceptable. They may marry only lawful Biblically qualifying couples, and can even do so without anyone obtaining a Government issued license. The “Establishment Clause” prevents the State or Government from forcing belief or disbelief on any religion. The Clause protects the right to worship according to the dictates of one’s conscience, and the right to do, or forbear to do, any act, for conscience sake, the doing or forbearing of which is not inimical to the peace, good order, and morals of society. The right to believe and act is absolute, but the “to act” part is still subject to some regulation for “protection of Society.” 1st Amendment Churches therefore can reject LGBTQ+ individuals for membership or attendance for any reason that the ruling authority of the body may determine, and reject anyone that does not qualify or submit to their religious or doctrinal standards. However, by accepting such responsibilities the leaders and individuals of 1st Amendment Churches are also liable for unlawful acts perpetrated by them or by their leaders (as it should be). Leaders of 1st Amendment Churches cannot hide behind a corporate veil that may separate the actions of the corporation from the actions of you or your church members. You cannot have your cake and eat it too.....! This is why many Churches become Corporate Churches.

So, what is the cost for being a Government Church? Well, if you are a Government Approved 501 (c) 3 Corporation, you must also obey all laws and any existing LGBTQ+ rights (like gay marriage laws) and any other new “rights” that may in the future affect your Church’s moral views, standards, or doctrine, or to assemble. Tax exempt Corporations are also prevented from speaking out on political issues, or from actively supporting candidates or issues.

If your Church is a 501 (c) 3 entity it cannot just change its Government stripes over night since the Government does not like to lose control of its 501 Churches. Care and proper documentation must be made in order for a 501 (c) 3 Church to move out from under the control banner of the IRS, the State and Federal Government. Basically, the 501 entity must legally cease to exist, all assets liquidated and a completely new unrelated Religious Society must be established and properly recorded; to exist (but NOT by seeking Government approval). Once a 501 Corporate Church always a 501 (c) 3 Corporate Church, you cannot just replace the same organization with a qualifying 1st Amendment Religious Society unless the old Corporation ceases and “dies.” If your Corporation has not yet been challenged by LGBTQ+ rights you have been spared, but its coming.

Summary – Corporations are by design controlled by Government. A corporation provides some cover for individual liability as a benefit, but it is at the severe cost of Government control and forced regulation. A Corporation has Government as its head, not the Almighty Sovereign Creator, and a loss of religious Freedom. If you are now a Government Church, it is unlikely that your current accountant or consulting attorney is capable of correcting your current status since he or she has not provided you with information to be a 1st Amendment Religious entity in the first place. Accountants and Attorneys are all Government regulated and require approval by Government so do not even think about asking them for help. They may however be able to help you untangle your Church from being a 501 (c) 3 Corporation should you and your Biblical Society (Church) be willing to do so. Your Religious Society could then become religiously *free from Government mandates* such as providing rights for LGBTQ+ (if this violates your Biblical standards) and again become religiously free under your rightful Biblical headmaster.

Yahweh bless, Assembly of Yahweh, Cascade <http://AOYCascade.com>