

First Amendment:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Fourteenth Amendment:

Section. 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; ***nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law;*** nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

1. What does the author mean by the title of the book, ***“The Lord Was Not On Trial,”*** and how does this impact does the original challenge waged by the plaintiff, Vashti McCollum?
2. Discuss how the response to the original lawsuit might have been different if the plaintiff belonged to one of the **main stream religions**, *Protestant, Catholic, Presbyterian*; also, what if the plaintiff belonged to one of the **minority religions**, *Jehovah’s Witnesses, Christian Scientists, or Mormons*? *Why do you suppose other minority religions didn’t join Vashti in her lawsuit?*
3. What impact do you think the *“passing of time”* had to do with the outcome of the Supreme Court decision versus the decisions at the Circuit and State Court level?
4. Compare/contrast the **reactions** of the plaintiff’s lawyers versus the school board lawyers to the Supreme Court decision in the *Everson (New Jersey)* decision less than one month after the State Court decision in the McCollum case.
5. The attorney for the defendant argued at the Illinois Supreme Court that ***“Constitutional guarantees are for religious people and for people who prefer religion...can’t as judges and courts, protect people from social consequences resulting from their choice of religion.”*** Give pros or cons of this argument. (p.144)
6. What impact did the ***“Court of Public Opinion”*** have on this case from the beginning to the end—especially at the Supreme Court level with its ***“amici curiae”*** provision?
7. Discuss the minority opinion rendered at the U.S. Supreme Court level that ***“...religious groups are “quick to invoke its protections (under the Constitution)...but are irked when they feel its restraints.”*** How does this align with “rights versus responsibilities?”

8. One of the *arguments/objections* to religious education in the schools is that ***it is unlikely to accomplish what's expected of it and that the schools are shouldering the burden of what can't be accomplished at home.*** Respond to that argument in light of what schools are doing today to address issues/problems that are not being shouldered by parents including meals, health care, character education, etc. Can morality be taught independent of religion?
 9. Respond to the statement that over 90-95% of our founding fathers were practicing Trinitarians and that today's interpretation of "***separation of church and state***" is **not** what the founding fathers meant (***doctrinal vs. denominational***). How might our Constitution have been different if the Founding Fathers were ***not*** men of the Bible?
 10. **How might you use the information in this book with your classes?** What lessons could be shared and its impact on you personally? Discuss recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions involving religion.
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Evidence often cited as "proof" that Christian Theism was the national doctrinal religion (or "default religion) include:

- *Emblazoned over the Speaker of the House in the U.S. Capitol are the words "In God We Trust."*
- *The Supreme Court building built in the 1930's has carvings of Moses and the Ten Commandments.*
- *God is mentioned in stone all over Washington D.C. on its monuments and buildings.*
- *As a nation, we have celebrated Christmas to commemorate the Savior's birth for centuries.*
 - *Oaths in courtrooms have invoked God from the beginning.*
 - *The founding fathers often quoted the Bible in their writings.*
- *Every president that has given an inaugural address has mentioned God in that speech.*
 - *Prayers have been said at the swearing in of each president.*
- *Each president was sworn in on the Bible, saying the words, "So help me God."*
 - *Our national anthem mentions God.*
 - *The liberty bell has a Bible verse engraved on it.*
 - *The original constitution of all 50 states mentions God.*
 - *Chaplains have been in the public payroll from the very beginning.*
- *Our nation's birth certificate, the Declaration of Independence, mentions God four times.*
 - *The Bible was used as a textbook in the schools.*