From: jddigital@aol.com
To: Preston Christie A
Subject: Please stop favoring churches
Date: Friday, September 11, 2015 1:58:48 PM

Ms. Preston,

As a taxpayer and married gay man, I am greatly distressed by the IRS's preferred treatment of churches. The mammoth amount of political influence and wealth transforms churches into businesses, pure and simple. Please recognize this fact.

- All non-profit organizations should be treated equally, regardless of whether they espouse an atheist position, or a religious position. Currently the IRS singles out churches for privileged treatment by exempting them from the disclosure requirements all other 501(c)(3) organizations must comply with, or lose their exemption. Taxpayers, who are subsidizing tax-exempt groups, have a right to know what entities are exempt from taxation and to review general financial disclosures. The privilege of not being taxed must come with some measures of accountability.
- 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.

Thank you for listening,

John Douglas
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