From:	Laura Rich
To:	Preston Christie A
Subject:	Tax Exempt Status of Religious Organizations Needs to be Eliminated Now
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It is time to stop giving religious organizations a tax break when they are not using their funds to just help people, but to proselytize. People shouldn't have to listen to preaching in order to receive charity, and religious organizations shouldn't be given ANY federal funds.

Many of those organizations CLAIMING to be religious institutions are in fact fronts for money grubbing swindlers who take the vulnerable and gullible for as much money as they possibly can to finance lavish lifestyles while telling their donors they are receiving grace from god when they donate.

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.

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