From: Clyde S. Dale
To: Preston Christie A
Subject: American Atheists
Date: Sunday, September 13, 2015 4:19:18 PM

RE: tax-exempt status for American Atheists

A bit of perspective, it seems, is in order. Organized churches are such for what reason(s)? The sharing of a belief system/philosophy, community/fellowship, and to collect and distribute monies for charitable purposes. They are forbidden from becoming involved in partisan politics, as you well know.

Atheism is also a belief system, consisting simply of skeptical disbelief in the 'god' claims of the churches. The American Atheists (along with several others) are an assembled group for the purpose of sharing belief system/philosophy, community/fellowship (since atheists often feel isolated in a largely theistic society), and they do collect monies (membership fees, etc.)and contribute charities/charitable causes.

Other than the subject of the belief system, there is little difference between these -- but for ONE: American Atheists could NOT, with taxable income BEING taxed, contribute approximately $70B to the country's needs as handled by the government.

Given the increasing intrusion by churches and their representatives in the political realm in recent times, one of two things should happen: either American Atheists should receive the same tax-free status, or churches who 'butt into' politics should QUICKLY lose it. (I would not be averse to the total loss of tax-free status by churches, for that matter.)

Thank you for your attention.