From: Howie Goldsmith
To: Preston Christie A
Subject: IRS should stop preferential treatment of religion
Date: Sunday, September 13, 2015 4:36:48 PM

Ms. Preston,

I am strongly in support of the IRS ending preferential treatment of religious institutions. You must increase oversight and require those institutions to report their income and expenses, just as secular charities must. There have been innumerable cases of abuse of the lax oversight given to this class of non-profits. Here are specific points.

- 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.

I hope you will address this gross injustice which in effect, constitutes government endorsement of religion. This is an injustice to non-believers such as myself and constitutes an increase in my taxes to make up for these benefits accorded to religious groups.

Respectfully,

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