

Deism and The Founding Fathers
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Deism, according to Webster's New World Dictionary (July 1983), is "the belief that God exists and created the world but thereafter assumed no control over it". Therefore a "deist" could be such and also practice other denominational beliefs, since deism is in fact denominational. So if some of our founding fathers were deists, they could also have been Christian in the sense they had faith in and/or adhered to the teachings of Jesus found in the Bible. Daniel Webster himself, as Secretary of State and defender of the Constitution, once stated that "the Christian religion - its general principles - must ever be regarded among us as the foundation of civil society" and "whatever makes a good Christian makes a good citizen".

As one of the signers of both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, a diplomat, printer, scientist and Governor of Pennsylvania, Benjamin Franklin stated the following. "As to Jesus of Nazareth, my opinion of whom you particularly desire, I think the system of morals and His religion as He left them to us, the best the world ever saw or is likely to see."

Another signer of the Declaration and the third president of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, stated "I am a real Christian – that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus Christ".

James McHenry, who also signed the Constitution, stated "Public utility pleads most forcibly for the general distribution of the Holy Scriptures. Without the Bible, in vain do we increase penal laws and draw entrenchments around our institutions".

And there are numerous other quotes that show many of the founding fathers to be at least Christian in their judgments and accorded their understanding of justice to the pages of the Bible. The first president of the United States, George Washington, once stated "You do well to wish to learn our arts and ways of life, and above all, the religion of Jesus Christ. These will make you a greater and happier people than you are".

There are those with agendas who will overlook certain statements in order to promote such. These also label many who have a deep sense of patriotism and faith as "hate mongers" when in fact it's the opposite. Some who claim to be Christian fall into the snare that "we are not to judge anyone" and do so in ignorance showing a lack of even some Biblical knowledge (*1 Cor 5:12*). If there is to be civil conversation on any matter, let it at least be done in truth, if that's still possible in an age where the "conscience is seared with a hot iron" (*1 Timothy 4:2*).

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