

OUR CIVIL RIGHTS
(Thos. Jefferson)

. . . our civil rights have no dependence on our religious opinions,
any more than our opinions in physics or geometry;
and therefore the proscribing any citizen as unworthy the public confidence . . .
unless he profess or renounce this or that religious opinion,
is depriving him injudiciously of those privileges and advantages
to which . . . he has a natural right;
it tends also to corrupt the principles of that very religion it is meant to
encourage,
by bribing with a monopoly of worldly . . . emoluments those who will externally
profess and conform to it;
indeed, these are criminals who do not withstand such temptation;
yet neither are those innocent who lay the bait in their way.