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'Economic benefit' could endanger your house

Mike Griffin, Guest Columnist

"Today the Court abandons this long-held, basic limitation on government power. Under the banner of economic development, all private property is now vulnerable to being taken and transferred to another private owner § who will use it in a way that the legislature deems more beneficial to the public§" (Kelo v. New London, 545 U.S. ___2005, O'Connor, J., dissenting)

The Supreme Court's June 23 decision on eminent domain could be the decision that motivates many to get involved in opposing an "out of touch" court.

I have heard in recent conversations, talk about what it is going to take to get "Joe six-pack" engaged in the debate over erroneous Supreme Court rulings.

Well, this one might just do it. I have also heard discussions about what it is going to take to get the average pastor, who has bought into the ACLU's version of "separation of church and state," involved in opposing the religious liberty abuses of the court. Again, this one might just do it.

Here's the point about the Supreme Court's reinterpretation of the Fifth Amendment. Houses that you live in (your residence) and houses that you worship in (church buildings) could be taken from you by a local government if the "economic benefit" outweighed your living and/or worshipping in a certain building.

This means that in the right circumstance your home or church could be in the "crosshairs" for creating a better tax base or employment situation for your community.

Talk about an incentive for being nice to your local politician! He or she could vote on the fate of your house one day!

You think I am exaggerating? Talk to the people in the city of New London, Conn. It cost some of them the homes that they had lived in all their lives.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor astutely concluded that, "Any church might be replaced by a retail store." These are not circumstances to be taken lightly. All it would take is the right politicians and the right property to implement this ruling.

What is one to think about all of this? Well, for me it proves the point that when a court turns its back on God and sets itself up as Lord, it can and will do whatever it thinks is right.

This demonstrates that a fundamental principle of our country's founding is being totally ignored. Subsequently, we are being led in the opposite direction from which we started.

We started as a country with the premise that our rights, liberties, and freedom come from God, not the State (see Declaration of Independence, "endowed by our Creator").

Therefore, our rights and privileges to own property come from God. Our framers knew that and placed a high standard of value on individual property rights.

Actually, they gained these insights from Sir William Blackstone's "Commentaries on the Laws of England" as well as the book of Genesis and the Eighth Commandment of the Ten Commandments, "Thou shalt not steal".

This commandment presupposes the fact that you can own something. But, in our day, the courts see the State and not God as the grantor of these rights.

Therefore, what the State giveth, the State can taketh away! This kind of perverted thinking is more characteristic of communism than democracy!

You see, this is what brings this whole issue back full circle to the public acknowledgement of God by our government. Our framers knew that we had to continue to acknowledge the God of the Bible (without, however, establishing a state religion) in order to insure these rights and freedoms for coming generations.

All of these rights are in jeopardy with rulings such as was handed down on June 23. And, what's bad is that we have not seen anything yet, because "it could end up being your house"!

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