

CONTROLLING LEGAL PRINCIPLES

Free Exercise Clause Decision – The “Contemplation of Justice”

Fowler v. Rhode Island, 345 U.S. 67 (1953)



Appellant's sect has conventions that are different from the practices of other religious groups. Its religious service is less ritualistic, more unorthodox, less formal than some. But, apart from narrow exceptions not relevant here, *Reynolds v. United States*, 98 U. S. 145; *Davis v.*

Page 345 U. S. 70

Beason, 133 U. S. 333, **it is no business of courts to say that what is a religious practice or activity for one group is not religion under the protection of the First Amendment.** Nor is it in the competence of courts under our constitutional scheme to approve, disapprove, classify, regulate, or in any manner control sermons delivered at religious meetings.

The judgment is reversed, and the cause is remanded to the Supreme Court of Rhode Island for proceedings not inconsistent with this opinion.

Reversed.

