

Gospel Advocates, Inc.

Post Office Box 2337
DeLand, Florida 32721-2337

www.gospeladvocates.com
(386) 804-1020

EVANGELISM AT PUBLIC FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Richard S. Jackson, Attorney At Law

The First Amendment protects the right to preach publicly Kunz v. People of State of New York, 340 U.S. 290 (1951), **display signs and banners** U.S. v. Grace, 461 U.S. 171 (1983), **and distribute religious literature.** Lovell v. Griffin, 303 U.S. 444 (1938); Cantwell v. Connecticut, 310 U.S. 296 (1940); Schneider v. State of New Jersey, 308 U.S. 147 (1939), Murdock v. Pennsylvania, 319 U.S. 105 (1943).

A public park, street or sidewalk is a “Traditional Public Forum,” where use by the public for purposes of assembly, communicating thoughts between citizens, and discussing public questions has been a part of the privileges, immunities, rights, and liberties of citizens since ancient times. Perry Education Assn. v. Perry Local Educators’ Assn., 460 U.S. 37 (1983); Hague v. C.I.O., 307 U.S. 496 (1939); U.S. v. Grace, 461 U.S. 171 (1983).

When there is a permitted event in a Traditional Public Forum and free access is allowed to the public to attend the event, the event area remains a Traditional Public Forum where members of the public have a right to express their views. Parks v. City of Columbus, Ohio, 395 F.3d 643 (6th Cir. 2005); Gathright v. City of Portland, Oregon, 439 F.3d 573 (9th Cir. 2006); Wickersham v. City of Columbia, 481 F.3d 591 (8th Cir. 2007).

“The city streets are a traditional public forum, and their character as a public forum is retained even though they are used for a public festival sponsored by a private entity.” Teesdale v. City of Chicago, 690 F.3d 829, 834 (7th Cir. 2012).

“For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord...”
2 Corinthians 4:5