

...A Florida-based Christian activist says if the U.S. Navy is allowed to silence one of its chaplains from preaching the gospel message, then the government will be silencing civilian people of faith next. Chaplain Gordon James Klingenschmitt already faces a court martial for praying in Jesus' name while in uniform in front of the White House.

Now a military Judge Advocate General (JAG) official says Klingenschmitt's commanding officer was justified in punishing the Christian officer in writing for preaching what the Navy calls "an exclusive" sermon at a memorial service for a sailor who died from injuries in a motorcycle accident. But Janet Folger, president of the group [Faith 2 Action](#), says this matter goes far beyond one Navy chaplain. "What we're looking at here is a full, frontal attack on the gospel of Jesus Christ," she asserts, "and if this chaplain falls, we all fall. If they are able to criminalize him today, it's your pastor tomorrow, and it's each of us the day after that."

The pro-family spokeswoman says believers need to stand behind Klingenschmitt, a man of deep principles who actually took a demotion in order to serve as a chaplain. "He was with the Air Force, and he was actually a higher rank, but he took a demotion just to be able to proclaim Christ, just to be able to pray for our troops," she points out. "And now that the lieutenant has prayed for them and shared the gospel with them," Folger contends, "what he is being punished for is proclaiming that gospel."

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