

California City Fines Couple for Holding Bible Study in their Home

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A southern California couple has been fined \$300 dollars for holding Christian Bible study sessions in their home, and could face another \$500 for each additional gathering.

City officials in San Juan Capistrano, Calif. say Chuck and Stephanie Fromm are in violation of municipal code 9-3.301, which prohibits “religious, fraternal or non-profit” organizations in residential neighborhoods without a permit.

Stephanie hosts a Wednesday Bible study that draws about 20 attendees, and Chuck holds a Sunday service that gets about 50.

The Fromms appealed their citations but were denied and warned future sessions would carry heftier penalties. A statement from the [Pacific Justice Institute](#), which is defending the couple in a lawsuit against the city, said Chuck Fromm was also told regular gatherings of three or more people require a conditional use permit, which can be costly and difficult to obtain.

“How dare they tell us we can’t have whatever we want in our home,” Stephanie Fromm told the [Capistrano Dispatch](#). “We want to be able to use our home. We’ve paid a lot and invested a lot in our home and backyard ... I should be able to be hospitable in my home.”

According to the Dispatch... (To read this article in its entirety, go to: <http://www.theblaze.com/stories/california-city-fines-couple-for-holding-bible-study-in-their-home/>)