



A Freedom Declaration For America: Part II, Basic Principles of Freedom

INDEPENDENT AMERICAN PARTY

There are three main concepts we must all understand about the U.S. Constitution:

- I. The Principle of Agency: Choice and Consequences
- II. The importance of key principles stated therein for the establishment of Freedom
- III. That we are in the midst of a Constitutional Crisis

I. The Principle of Agency: Choice and Consequences

The first basic principle of life is personal agency. As humans and as children of God, we have the right and obligation to make choices. We can choose to do anything we desire. However, there are consequences, good or bad, to our choices. We must appreciate that we live in one of history's most exceptional moments – in a time of unprecedented Freedom and prosperity. Keep in mind that Freedom as we know it has been experienced by only a fraction of the human family. God not only holds individuals accountable for their actions, but He also holds nations accountable. Eventually, all people will meet their Maker and be held accountable for their actions in this world. However, nations must be held accountable in this world. The Bible is replete with examples of nations falling due to their disobedience to the laws of God.

A. Proper role of government

In order to facilitate moral agency, we must understand the function and proper role of government concerning Freedom. These are the general principles that establish free government:

- 1) Free governments were instituted of God and established by social contract for the collective benefit of man, and primarily for the defence of their rights. God holds men and governments accountable for their acts in relationship to each other and to these rights.
- 2) No government can exist in peace except when its laws are framed so as to secure to each individual their personal Liberty, free exercise of conscience and religious worship, their right and control of personal property, and the protection of life.

3) All people have a duty to sustain and uphold the moral decisions of the respective governments in which they reside, while being protected in their inherent and inalienable rights by the just laws of such governments.

In short, the most important single function of government is to secure the rights and Freedoms of individual citizens. This is not what is happening today. Let us continue to examine the relationship between governments and the inherent rights of the People they were designed to protect.

B. The Source of Human Rights

We must possess a fundamental knowledge of the source of our basic human rights. Rights are either God-given as part of a divine plan, or they are granted by government as part of a political plan. If we accept the premise that human rights are granted by government, then we must be willing to accept the corollary that they can be denied by government. True believers in Freedom should never accept the premise that government grants rights and privileges. We must ever keep in mind the inspired words of Thomas Jefferson, as found in the Declaration of Independence:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

C. People Are Superior to Government

We must understand that the People are superior to the governments they form. Since God created individuals with certain unalienable rights, and they, in turn, created government to help secure and safeguard those rights, it follows that the People are superior to the government they create. Government is to be our servant, not our master. As the Declaration of Independence clearly states, when a government abuses its purpose, it is the right of the People to “alter or to abolish it”. If Freedom is to survive, the People must step forward and assert their natural authority over their government.

D. Governments Should Have Limited and Defined Powers

Essential to our understanding of the Constitution is the knowledge that

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governments can rightfully have only limited powers. The important thing to keep in mind is that the People who create their government can give to that government only such powers as they, themselves, possess in the first place. They cannot delegate that which they do not naturally have a right to. The principle is simple: If you cannot steal from your neighbor, neither can your government. If you cannot violate your neighbor's privacy, neither can your government. And so it goes. By deriving its just powers from the governed, government becomes a mechanism primarily for defense against bodily harm, theft, and involuntary servitude. Government cannot therefore claim the power to redistribute money or property, to take life, or to force reluctant citizens to perform acts of charity against their will because the People cannot do those things. The creature cannot exceed its creator. All government power is on loan and can be revoked if the People so choose. Once we understand how power is delegated and which powers can rightfully be delegated, we will be able to halt any unwarranted power grabs and maintain order.

E. The Constitution and its Coming Forth

Our purpose is not to recite the miraculous events that led to the American Revolution and Independence – we are all familiar with these – but to impress their importance upon the mind and heart. The Founding Fathers firmly believed that they were led by Heaven to establish the United States and believed that the United States had a destiny to fulfill. From the shot heard round the world to ratification of the Bill of Rights, America faithfully set a course to the most complete Freedom a nation has ever known. Before this could be realized however, America had first to be free and independent. The first step toward Independence was a revival of the mind that swept the colonies. An understanding of Freedom burned bright as individuals became anxious to take upon themselves the burden of self-government. After this initial revolution of ideas occurred, American patriots sacrificed everything to make their dreams a reality. Eventually America fulfilled her destiny and offered a safe haven of Liberty to the world. As expressed so eloquently by John Adams before the signing of the Declaration, "There's a Divinity which shapes our ends" (quoted in *The Works of Daniel Webster*, vol. 1 (Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown, 1851), p. 133).

Many principles could be examined, but we note these few as being crucial to the understanding and preservation of our Freedom. We declare that a revolution of ideas must occur in order for real change to take place. An excitement for self-government must sweep the People if they expect to have the resolve to overcome the obstacles blocking their path to complete Independence. If we understand these profound principles, we have taken the first step in defending our Freedoms. Let us now turn to a discussion of the inspired document we call the Constitution.

II. Key Principles of Freedom Stated in the Constitution

The major provisions of the Constitution which support Freedom are as follows:

1) Sovereignty of the People - Sovereignty lies in the People themselves. Every governmental system has a sovereign – one or several who possess all the executive, legislative, and judicial powers. That sovereign may be an individual, a group, or the People themselves. The Founding Fathers believed in Common Law, which holds that true sovereignty rests with the People alone. Believing this to be in accordance with truth, the Founders inserted this imperative in the Declaration of Independence: "To secure these rights [Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness], Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

2) Separation of Powers - To safeguard our rights, the Founding Fathers devised a unique separation of powers among the three branches of government – the legislative, the executive, and the judicial. Each was to be independent of the other while working in a unified relationship known as checks and balances. If one branch were to overstep its bounds, the other two were designed to stop it. However, over the past century, all three branches have exceeded their limits set by the Constitution. The use of checks and balances was deliberately designed, first, to place restraint on the government, and, second, to prevent a minority of the People from taking control. Knowing human nature and the tendency of government to consolidate power to itself, the intent of the Founders was to bind the government down with the "chains of the Constitution". We declare that the "beast" is breaking out of its chains. As George Washington observed: "Government is not reason; it is not eloquent; it is force. Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master". It is up to the People to keep the fire properly contained within the fire pit.

3) Limited Powers of Government - The powers the People delegated to the three branches of government were specifically defined and purposefully limited. The Founding Fathers well understood human nature and its tendency to exercise unrighteous dominion when given authority. Our Constitution was therefore designed to limit government to certain enumerated functions, beyond which was tyranny and oppression. There are approximately twenty specific duties appointed to our federal government, chief among which are the protection of individual rights and the military defense of the nation. We have allowed government to exceed those specified duties, and to take exponentially more power unto itself. Accordingly, we have the power to reverse these trends and limit our government.

4) The Principle of Representation and Honest Voting - Our constitutional republican government is based on the principle of representation, which means that we delegate to elected officials the power to represent us. The Constitution provides for both

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direct representation and indirect representation. Both forms of representation provide a tempering influence on the unbridled passions of pure democracy. The intent was to protect the individual's and the minority's rights to Life, Liberty, and the fruits of their labors – Property. These rights were not to be subject to majority vote.

It is crucial to understand that America was founded as a constitutional republic, not a democracy. Democracy is another name for “mob rule” where the majority can vote away the rights of the minority. In a republican form of government, the rule of law with its inherent protections on individual Liberty is preeminent. The American Founders did not intend our government to be a democracy, yet we have moved dangerously in that direction. The sole democratic element in our system of government is that “We the People” cast our vote to elect our representatives. Further, we question the legitimacy of vote tallying at all levels, state and federal, as to its honesty and validity. We believe that election fraud and scams are rampant and, with the new electronic vote-counting systems, secure and reliable vote tallies are in doubt. This is a major breakdown of our representative government and must be remedied.

5) A Moral and Righteous People - The Constitution was designed to work with only a moral and righteous people. “Our constitution,” declared John Adams, “was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other” (John R. Howe, Jr., *The Changing Political Thought of John Adams*, Princeton University Press, 1966, p. 185). Our morality, or immorality, as a People, will bring upon us consequences, either good or bad. America was founded on Judeo-Christian philosophy and upon Common Law as found in the sublime works of history, including the Bible. The limits of the Constitution only work when elected officials are honest and virtuous, and when the People demand high standards of character from their leaders. If the People are not moral and decent, the rule of law means nothing and our rights become arbitrary.

The formula then for producing national Freedom, peace and prosperity is limited and defined republican government, strict government accountability, and morality by the People.

III. The Crisis of our Constitution

The ingenious and inspired U.S. Constitution was created by honorable and wise men for the benefit and blessing of their countrymen, future generations, and the world. It is now more than two hundred twenty years since the Constitution was written and we reflect on our progress. Have we been wise beneficiaries of the gift entrusted to us? Have we valued and protected the principles laid down by this great document?

Have we defended our limited government and the rights it was established to protect? After all these years, we must, with sadness, say that we have not been wise in keeping the trust of our Founding Fathers. For well over two centuries, those who have not prized Freedom have chipped away at every major clause of our Constitution until today we face a crisis of great dimensions.

A. The need to prepare - Any truly important fight requires preparation. We are in a war for our Freedom. Are we prepared to defend and fight for our Freedoms? If so, here are some things we must do:

1) If we wish to keep our Freedom, we must first be righteous and moral, personally and as a People. We must live and exemplify good and virtuous principles. We have no right to expect a higher degree of morality from those who represent us than what we ourselves abide by. To live a higher law means that we will not seek to receive what we have not earned by our own labor. It means we remember that government owes us nothing except equal protection of the law. It means we keep the just laws of the land to ensure peace and stability. It means we look to God as our Lawgiver and the source of our Liberty. A virtuous People is the surest defense of Freedom.

2) The next step in our preparation is education. We must learn the principles of the Constitution and abide by its precepts. Have we read the Constitution and studied it? Are we aware of its principles? Could we defend it if the situation required it? Can we recognize when a law is constitutionally unsound? Do we even know what our precious rights are? The Founding Fathers gave us counsel on how to perpetuate Liberty, but we must first take the initiative of embracing self-government. We quote Abraham Lincoln's timeless counsel: “Let [the Constitution] be taught in schools, in seminaries, and in colleges; let it be written in primers, spelling-books, and in almanacs; let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice. And, in short, *let it become the political religion of the nation*” (Complete Works of Abraham Lincoln, ed. John G. Nicolay and John Hay, vol. 1 (New York: Francis D. Tandy Co., 1905), p.43, emphasis added).

3) We must personally become involved in civic affairs. As citizens of a republic, it is impossible to fulfill our duty and be idle spectators. Responsibility requires action. Keeping informed and engaging in the political process of voting are the core functions of our civic duty. Electing leaders from among the People and then holding them accountable for breaches of their oath is essential to the continuation of the American system. We must seek to elect good, wise, and honest men and women to office – individuals who will keep their oath to defend the Constitution at any cost. We must be resolute in our desires and efforts to

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see individuals represent us who possess all of these qualities. At times, we may be called upon to provide our personal talents in the administration of our government. This noble duty should never be taken lightly, but should be considered an object of the greatest importance. If we honorably fulfill our duties and make sure our elected representatives fulfill theirs, we will see our country become peaceful, united, and strong.

4) As alluded to above, we must demand that our representatives obediently follow the Constitution – the Supreme Law of the Land – and exercise our rightful authority over them when they break their oaths. We must take part in local meetings and select delegates and officials who will truly represent our feelings. Local officials are the key to winning our struggle for Liberty. If we select honest individuals to fill local positions, it will have a ripple effect that will eventually reach the highest offices. However, no real change can occur if we remain silent and inactive. Let us take the time to educate ourselves and our families and raise our voices in protest to tyranny and in defense of Freedom.

5) A crucial element in this battle for Freedom is that of information. As individuals, we must demand that media outlets, particularly local outlets, broadcast only the unbiased truth. Nationally we have an information crisis as big as any constitutional crisis we have. We have lost ground in our battle because we have failed in learning the principles of Liberty. We have failed in demanding that our schools teach our children correct principles. Instead, we find that media outlets are controlled and biased and resemble propaganda machines more closely than anything. In order to rally people to the support of our Constitution and to the remedy of our common concerns, we must win the war of information and knowledge. It is absolutely essential that we capture the minds of the People, inspiring them with the glorious light of Independence. We must be personally engaged in the acquiring and spreading of knowledge. A free nation cannot survive in ignorance. But if we can ascertain the truth and act on it in an honest way, we will restore our Constitution and alleviate the crisis our nation faces.

We have faith that the Constitution can and will be saved, but it will not be saved in Washington D.C.; It will not be saved by our representatives. The Constitution will only be saved by the citizens of this nation who love and cherish Freedom enough to act in its defense. Each of us must participate in this great battle. There is no neutral ground. The time for choosing a side is before us. We must be willing to risk our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor for Liberty. Furthermore, we must faithfully rely on the protection of Divine Providence for our success. Our nation will eventually be saved by enlightened individuals – men and women who will subscribe to and abide by the principles of the Constitution.

B. The Constitution Requires our Loyalty and Support - We reverence the Constitution of the United States as a sacred and

inspired document. We, the blessed beneficiaries of our Founders' sacrifice and labor, face difficult days in this beloved land, a land choice above all other lands. It may also cost us blood before we are through. We must prepare for assaults on Liberty now by educating ourselves, keeping informed, becoming independent, speaking out for truth and virtue, and by never surrendering our natural rights. May God give us the faith and the courage exhibited by those patriots who pledged their lives and fortunes that we might be free.

We, the Independent American Party, submit that the following 15 basic principles must be followed to maintain Freedom:

- 1) Faith in God and a belief in moral law are essential to maintain Freedom
- 2) Government's sole function is to protect natural rights such as Life, Liberty, and ownership and control of Property
- 3) The United States Constitution is both inspired and binding
- 4) Proper government is the solution to invasion from without and anarchy from within
- 5) Government and individuals are to be held to the same standards in regards to the crimes they commit
- 6) Under no circumstances shall the freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights be infringed
- 7) Our American Republic invites prosperity; the infusion of Communism invites slavery
- 8) Socialism is an unconstitutional usurpation of power and a denial of the right of private property
- 9) All taxes should be uniform and at the same impartial rate
- 10) The United States Constitution requires a circulating medium that is convertible into gold and silver without loss
- 11) States are sovereign and should not be 'ruled' by the Federal Government
- 12) No state or local government can accept funds from the Federal Government and remain independent
- 13) Funds from the U.S. Treasury should not be gifted to other nations or their citizens
- 14) The Constitution trumps all foreign treaties or agreements
- 15) Our national defense should remain strong and never be under the control of foreign entities The ingenious and inspired U.S. Constitution was created by honorable and wise men

It behooves "We the People" of the United States of America to learn and understand the above mentioned principles, and

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to incorporate them into our minds and hearts so that we can become defenders of our precious Freedom and Liberty. Otherwise, we will continue to sink into the depths of debt, despair and despotism. If we fail to understand Freedom, we will lose it. If we don't correct our mistakes now, we will continue down the path to becoming slaves to a tyrannical oligarchy that is attempting to eliminate the sovereignty of the United States, the sovereignty of "We the People", and to enslave the world for their own selfish and ungodly interests. We must be unified in love, faith in God and knowledge of what Freedom is, its source, and how to preserve it. Remember, Freedom is not free! Freedom requires individual knowledge and active unification with other individuals for its protection.

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!

Footnotes:

Many of the comments in this document were taken from a speech by Ezra Taft Benson in 1986, entitled: "The Constitution—A Heavenly Banner". He said: "On the seventeenth day of September 1987, we commemorate the two-hundredth birthday of the Constitutional Convention, which gave birth to the document that Gladstone said is 'the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man' (William Ewart Gladstone: Life and Public Services, ed. Thomas W. Handford [Chicago: The Dominion Co., 1899], p. 323). I heartily endorse this assessment, and today I would like to pay honor—honor to the document itself, honor to the men who framed it, and honor to the God who inspired it and made possible its coming forth. To understand the significance of the Constitution, we must first understand some basic, eternal principles."