

Understanding Our Freedom

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The origin of all mankind's freedom is the freedom we have with God.

John 8:36 (NIV) - So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Our founding fathers even recognized that the freedoms we have in our country originated with God.

"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." - *Declaration of Independence*

Our rights come from God not the government. If the government gives your rights, they can take them away. A generation is being deceived to trust government and reject a Creator.

"Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever." - *President Thomas Jefferson*

There is a difference between "freedom of religion" and "freedom from religion."

"The highest story of the American Revolution is this: it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity." - *President John Adams*

There is a price for freedom.

Ephesians 1:7 (NLY) - God is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.

"We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the state of Great

Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as free and independent states, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor." - *The Declaration of Independence*

The celebration we enjoy is because of the willingness of the founders to sacrifice everything to enforce their declaration.

For those who are freed, they have a responsibility.

"We have staked the whole of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God." - *President James Madison*

"Whether this [new government] will prove a blessing or a curse will depend upon the use our people make of the blessings which a gracious God hath bestowed on us. If they are wise, they will be great and happy. If they are of a contrary character, they will be miserable. Righteousness alone can exalt them as a nation. Reader! Whoever thou art, remember this, and in thy sphere practice virtue thyself and encourage it in others." - *Patrick Henry*

Galatians 5:13-14 (NIV) - You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."