

Freedom or Freedumb?



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By: Robert Buckner

It is the position of this author that, if one does not truly understand Freedom, then one cannot responsibly or fully, tend it.

It would seem appropriate to begin an understanding of Freedom with a consideration of its origin.

The context of this discussion of the meaning of Freedom will be as it pertains to America, and the citizens of America – just as our Founding Fathers did state, so shall I: I do believe that God's Truth is - "SELF-EVIDENT!"

Genesis 1:1 & 27 ¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (God created everything!)

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Genesis 2:7-8 & 15-18 ⁷ Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

⁸ Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. ⁹ The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man,

"You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

God gave man the freedom to eat from any tree in the garden!

"Which trees in the garden could man eat from?" Answer: Man was "FREE" to eat from –Any Tree! However, if man used his freedom to eat from one particular tree – the result would be DEATH!

So, from the very beginning of the creation of, "Freedom," the creator of freedom, God, necessarily connected it with: responsibility!

God created everything! He created man. He created Freedom. Everything that God created belongs to God. God owns all that He did create! God owns "Freedom." It is His to give – not another man or certainly, not a government! Government did not create freedom!

God gave man complete freedom to choose for himself, but with the freedom comes a corresponding – responsibility!

*It is this very understanding of the origin and source of man's Rights, (One of which is, Freedom) that our Founding Fathers cited when they proclaimed 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.**"*

... But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

Essentially, up to this point in their Declaration of Independence, our Founding Fathers expressed that; if they were going to dissolve political ties with England, then, according to the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God, they (the Founding Fathers) were obligated to "declare" their reasons.

They went on to state that, the "Truths," whereby they derived their authority were from God and consequently, were thus, "self-evident!"

They then reaffirmed that, not only was it their Right, but, because this Right had been endowed to them by God, it was now also their "Duty," to secure these Rights! One may ask, "Duty to whom?" Their duty was to Him who did issue them their Rights!

So, what can we know thus far about "Freedom?" First, the source or author of our Freedom is God. Second, according to those who did establish America and its laws and government, this Right of Freedom comes with a recognized "Duty."

After the Revolutionary War, our Founding Fathers were faced with determining what form of government they would implement in America. A Representative Republican form of government was not a unified choice.

They were well aware of what had happened to other Republics throughout history and were very concerned that the same fate might result in this new America too.

The most significant weakness of the concept of a Republic was that it actually afforded "Too Much" individual freedom to its citizens! As could be observed in history, a republic could quite easily and very quickly, move from a Republic to a Democracy and then even more easily – to Tyranny!

How; Why? It was known that, undisciplined people with too much freedom, would soon learn that they could vote (in a democratic fashion) themselves access to the "Public Purse!" Once they are seduced by that realization – nothing is believed out of reach of the "Majority-Rule!"

Without any "Moral Self-Control" – the freedom afforded one within the Republican form of government could come to be controlled by majority – and really it truly only need be a, "perceived" majority. (Keep in mind this is exactly the same way that a "Mob" exercises its will – simple majority-rule!)

Another potential danger is that, if the "People," (in America's case: "We the People") who are the citizens of a Representative Republican form of government, do not remain vigilant in their "Duties" and "Responsibilities" necessary to bridle and maintain control of the Freedom of a Republic- government – can and will – very quickly – be taken under the control by all manner of, bureaucrats, crooks and political scoundrels! (Can anyone say: Democrat?)

When the "Freedom" of a Republic turns into apathy and laziness, the dishonest and immoral people will soon capitalize with ease - soon, doing almost anything they desire without consequence or any regard for rule-of-law! (Does this sound at all familiar to anyone today?)

They will fill the judiciary with their corrupt judges and pass illegal legislation - and - who will now stop them?

I recently read that the CEO of General Motors wants government to add at least a, dollar-per-gallon tax to every gallon sold - in order to coerce Americans to stop driving cars and trucks of their "free-choice" and compel them to buy the cars "GM" would prefer to see Americans drive!

Is there any American that does not believe that this perspective and desire is wholly contradictory to our Constitution and our fundamental "God-Given-Rights"?

Well then, I also read that a government bureaucracy, the FDA, is going to MANDATE that manufactures of many, many, various food products must alter their existing recipes, in order to align with what this bureaucracy views as a better - healthier - recipe! And they also intend to disallow advertising in various venues that they think to be inappropriate!

We have all heard that the incandescent light bulb has been banned! Not via legislation or the "Will of the People" - but by proxy via some bureaucrat's desire!

NOWHERE in our Constitution did our Founding Fathers make provisions for the Rights of the People to be usurped in this manner!

If, "We the People Today" were to read the "Declaration of Independence," and considering ONLY those issues and items listed by our Founding Fathers therein - we would actually have MORE justification to call for a revolution today - than they did!

Do the People of America not find that truism incredibly troubling?

Liberty, and the Freedom to exercise it - has not become diminished because the good and honest people of America have lost some horrific bloody and tragic battle somewhere! We have simply failed to maintain the DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES that are quite necessary and directly connected to the preservation of our FREEDOM!



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