

Our Founding Fathers...

On The Divine Creator

Throughout their writings, our Founding Fathers affirmed their belief that the existence of a Divine Creator was the foundation of all reality. Their conviction was that this Divine Creator was the designer of all things in nature and that He had established all the laws that govern nature. In his first inaugural address, George Washington humbly proclaimed that the people of the United States were bound to acknowledge the invisible and providential hand of God in every step that led to the independence of the colonies. Just as there are laws that govern nature, so there are laws that govern human nature. The Founders believed these laws had been revealed by God and formed the basis for all other laws determining right and wrong. The people believed and acknowledged this as well. This was the reason they had the highest respect for the laws of the newly formed government. Is it any wonder that as men remove themselves further and further from God, society becomes more rebellious, immoral and criminal activity increases?

On Natural Law

Our Founding Fathers sought to establish a form of government based upon what they termed 'Natural Law'. They found agreement among their own personal religious beliefs by defining Natural Law as being a code of "right reason" and "right conduct"; established by the Creator, discernable in the order of Nature itself, universal in its application, and eternal in its basic goodness. Many people today promote the idea that morality is relative, ever changing depending on the circumstances. If such people believe anything at all about the Bible, their interpretation of it is ever changing. No Bible-believing Christian can truly hold to such a view. Unfortunately, a by-product of this relative morality is an ever changing interpretation of the Constitution as well. As our foundation of morality is broken down, so too is our form of government. We are failing our children and grandchildren if we are not teaching them these principles and we are allowing the greatest nation the earth has ever seen to slowly fade into history.

On Virtue and Freedom

Benjamin Franklin wrote, "Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters." As citizens of the fledgling nation, our forefathers maintained a 'public virtue' through a firm commitment to the principles found in the Ten Commandments. They manifested this virtue toward one another by adhering to the Golden Rule. It had not always been the case, but in the few years prior to 1776, the people began to experience a moral and religious reform. Many were witnesses to the moral decay among the general population in England and Europe, which testified to the truth of Franklin's words. This was the very type of society and form of government they were trying to escape. It has been said that this moral reform likely accelerated the Revolution. Our Founding Fathers also firmly believed that this 'public virtue', with its Bible-based morality, must be promoted through the church, the family, and the schools. How far have we strayed since those early days?

On Virtuous Leaders

Proverbs 29:2, "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn." This was a favorite Scripture of many of our Founding Fathers. They believed service to the country was the highest calling of man and politics to be a "divine science." They asserted that no man should be chosen to office without experience, training, virtue and wisdom. They warned against the temptation of public service becoming a place of profit. They warned against giving the federal government more and more power to collect taxes, for it would not stop with the people's money; it would then be their land, their power and their rights. The Founding Fathers viewed public office as an honor and determined to promote this idea throughout the colonies. The virtue that men must possess, they said, to qualify for public

office, could only be maintained through the family, the churches, and the schools; in other words, through the people themselves, without government control and interference.

On the Role of Religion

Our Founding Fathers believed formal education should include teaching in three areas: religion, morality, and knowledge. They all agreed that without religion and morality, the people would be more prone to accept amoral and atheistic tyrants. The principles of religion with which they all agreed should be taught in public schools are summarized as follows: the existence of a Divine Creator who created all things and who should be recognized and worshipped; who has revealed a moral code distinguishing right from wrong; who holds mankind responsible for the way they treat each other; that mankind lives beyond this life and that we shall all be judged by Him. They considered these to be fundamental to all religions and offensive to none. Jefferson's famous "wall of separation between church and state" was only intended to limit the powers of the federal government in religious matters; never to prohibit the encouragement and equal treatment of all religions by the state governments. How far have we gone...

On Religion and Government

The fundamental principles of religion our Founders believed should be promoted through formal education included: belief in a Divine Creator who created all things, who established a moral code of right and wrong, and who holds mankind responsible for how we treat each other. It was upon these principles that our Constitution was framed, laying the foundation of "certain unalienable rights" given to us by the Creator; not granted by the government but rather protected by it; rights that we may forfeit due to our own actions, but rights that could not be taken from us without suffering God's justice. Religion and the American institutions of freedom were combined in the framework of the greatest document ever penned down. No wonder our Founding Fathers believed that without religion, the government of a free people could not be maintained. Do you think it is time we should begin to fear the outcome as more and more people are elected to office who have no respect for God or religion of any kind?

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