

Roy Disney
Nephew of Walt Disney



“It’s not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are.”

America has made two great contributions to human government.

E PLURIBUS UNUM

Respect for and Separation of both church and state.

Respect for and Sanctity of both the individual and community.

Robert Casey
Senator from Pennsylvania



“Our moral, religious, and political traditions are united in their respect for the dignity of human life.”



Richard Nixon

“Scrubbing floors and emptying bedpans has as much dignity as the Presidency.”

Matthew 22:21

“Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”



God and Government



Our disposition with respect to these two great authorities in life is at the heart of Wise Ethical Decisions.

The United States of America



“A Secular state with the soul of a church”

A Secular state

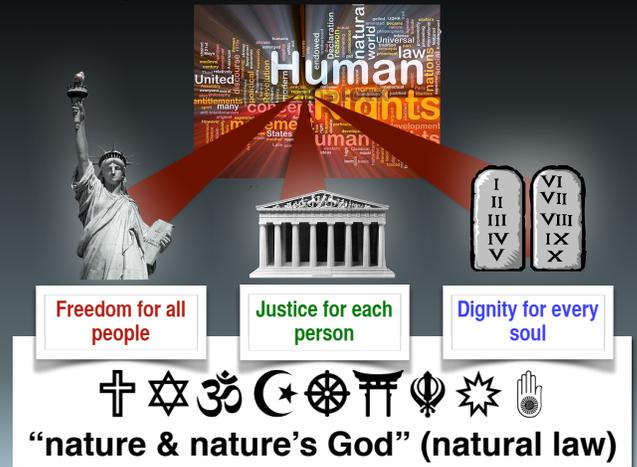
A Christian nation

G.K Chesterton

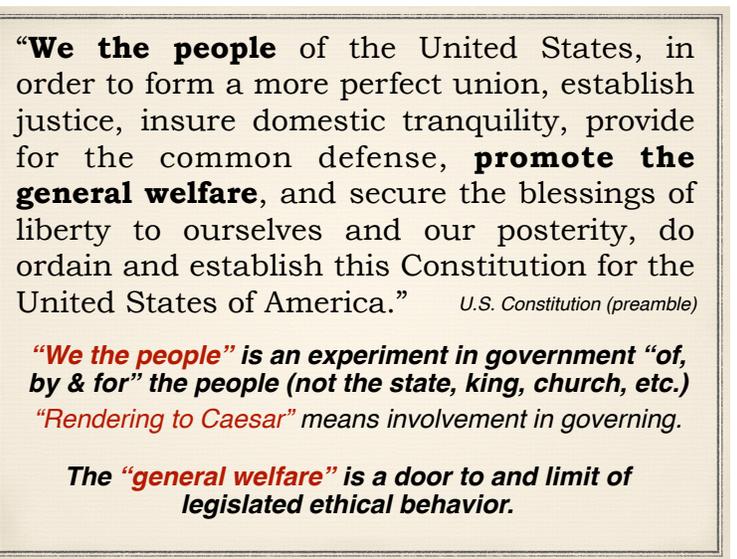
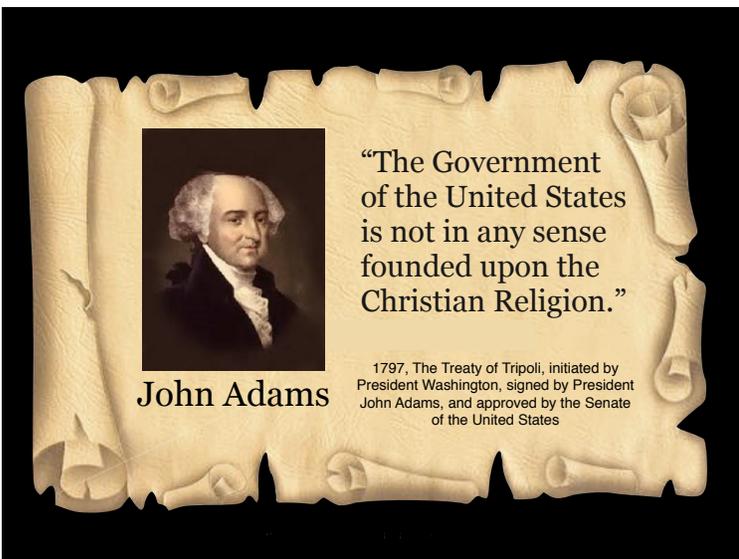
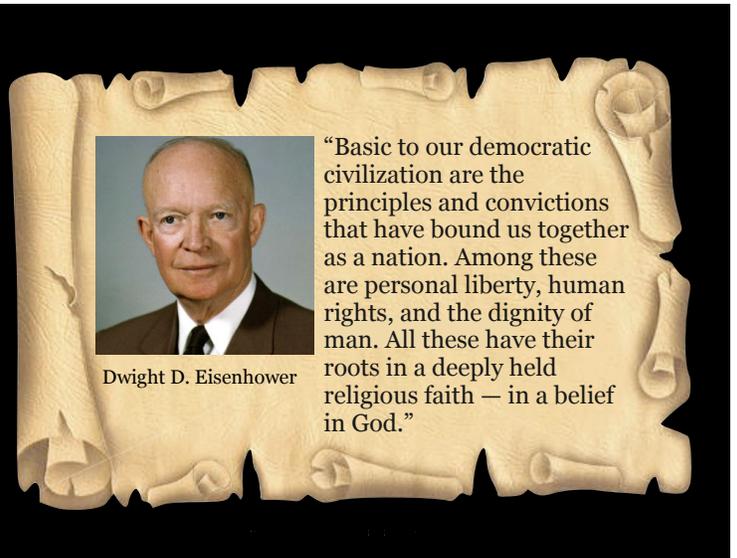
Three pillars of American political culture

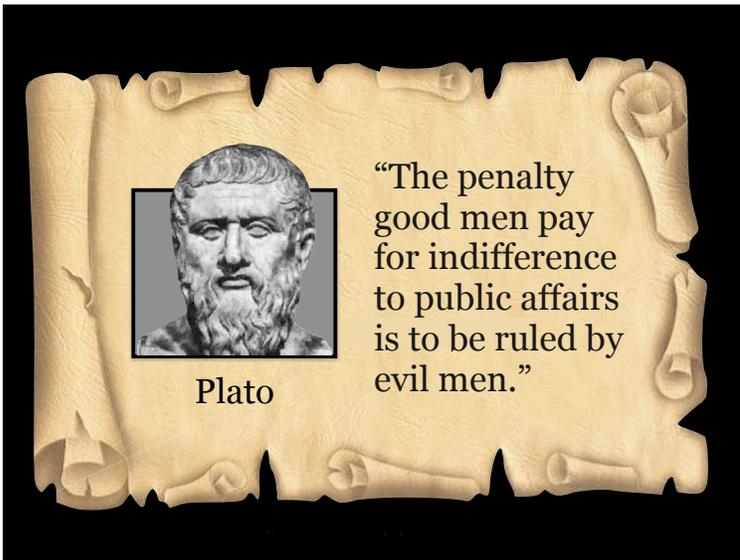


All three pillars are rooted in "natural law."



What is the tap root of the American idea?





Jeremiah 29:7

“Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf; for in its welfare you will have welfare.”

Promoting the general welfare
“rendering to Caesar”

- ✓ The U.S. government is designed to **salute the dignity of each person** by recognizing their right to life, liberty, and free choices in pursuing and securing happiness through virtue.
- ✓ It seeks to **maximize personal freedom** in most matters by not getting involved.
- ✓ Christian citizens “render to Caesar” when they promote and preserve the dignity of each person through **empathetic, respectful caring**.

1 Timothy 2

“1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, **so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.** 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,”

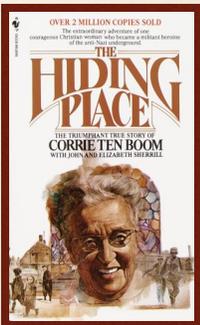
- Christian ethics start with the **disposition of the heart** toward peace with both God and man.
- Christian are not called to **conquer or curse** others in the name of Jesus but to **cherish & care** for them.
- At the heart of ethical civil service is the **preservation of personal dignity and rights**.

Betsie Ten Boom

was imprisoned with her family for hiding Jewish refugees as a part of the Dutch resistance during WWII.

Before her death, she experienced three visions about what she and her sister, Corrie were to do after their release. Her first vision was of **a house for former prisoners**. The second was **to own a concentration camp where they could teach Germans to learn to love again**. The third was that she and Corrie **would travel the world telling what they had learned of God while in the camps**.

Betsie died in prison at age 59. Corrie was released due to a clerical error and went on to tell the story of God’s love conquering fear in **THE HIDING PLACE**.




Louis Zamperini



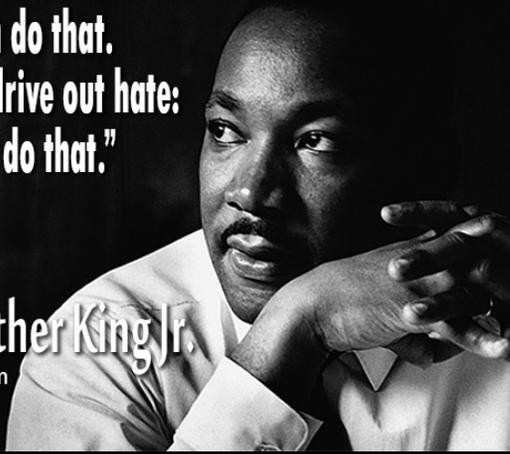




**“Darkness cannot drive out darkness:
only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate:
only love can do that.”**

Martin Luther King Jr.

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1 Peter 2

“¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. ¹⁵ For such is the will of God that by doing right you may **silence the ignorance of foolish men**. ¹⁶ Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but *use it* as bondslaves of God. ¹⁷ Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.”

- **It is better to show our hope than to enforce our hope on others.**

Submitting is a way of demonstrating our faith and hope in Christ (not human institutions).

The British tax of the colonies?

- ✓ Should the American colonies pay the British tax (on just about everything)?
- ✓ **Loyalists** argue it is a tax that funds British protection of the colonies from the French & Indians. The **Patriots** argued that the tax comes without representation in Parliament.
- ✓ **Jesus’ hypothetic counsel to Christians:** “My interest is in God’s kingdom not man’s. Pay the tax to be at peace; show the world that your faith, hope, and love are in something bigger than political liberty. If you can gain freedom through peaceful means, do so, but not at the expense of your own soul.”

But look at how God has blessed America and made it a blessing.

- ✓ The fact that God works all things together for good should not surprise us but it does not mean that the ends justify any means.
- ✓ The American legacy is at best mixed.



We have an appetite for and addiction to rebellion from all external authority - even God.

Our pride is the shadow of our independence, dimming the light of God’s image shining through us.

To the extent that we abuse our liberty we indicate that we are not worthy of it.

Taxation for funding abortions?

- ✓ Should Christian’s tax dollars go to Planned Parenthood?
- ✓ **YES!** Pay the tax and protest abortion issue on other grounds. **NO!** Don’t let your tax dollars support positions that violate your conscience.
- ✓ If **YES**, you are discredited in the Christian community. If **NO**, you are marginalized in the broader community. Either way, you lose influence.
- ✓ Did the Roman tax support programs that were offensive to God’s people?

1 Corinthians 5

“⁹ I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; ¹⁰ **I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world**, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world. . . . ¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? ¹³ But those who are outside, God judges.”

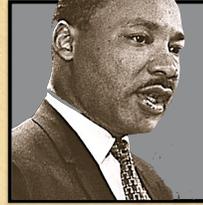
- **Christians are to be in the world without being of it or demanding that if conform to Christian moral standards.**

- **We have enough to do in disciplining ourselves let alone the world.**

Same sex marriage?

- ✓ If homosexual conduct is to be tolerated, does that also apply to same sex marriage?
- ✓ Why are “civil unions” unacceptable? Is the issue about tax benefits etc. or the credibility of homosexuality?
- ✓ How would changing views of marriage affect the “general welfare” of the family and society?
- ✓ If homosexual passion is “a civil right” because it feels “natural”, what about other forms of sexual passion that feel “natural?”

Martin Luther King Jr.



“Morality cannot be legislated, but behavior can be regulated. Judicial decrees may not change the heart, but they can restrain the heartless.”

- ✓ Advocates for Abortion, Gay marriage, and Evolution (origins) tend to frame the debate so as to obscure the root issue.
- ✓ Abortion is framed as a “choice” issue when it is perhaps a “civil rights” issue.
- ✓ Gay marriage is framed as a “civil rights” issue when it is perhaps a “respect” issue.
- ✓ Origins is framed as a “science” issue when it is perhaps a “religious” issue. Evolution is about development not origins.
- ✓ All are arguably “General welfare” issues.

Loving relationships
generally include
generous amounts of:

Flexibility
Forbearance
Forgiveness

The greatest testimony to the
dignity of man is the price
paid for his soul.

We are not worthy
of our salvation but
we are worth saving.