

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

THE RIGHT TO LIFE

Text: John 10:10

Introduction:

1. According to the Bible, the function of government is to maintain societal order that promotes peace and liberty (Romans 13:1-7).
2. Through the concepts of "Nature's God," "Natural Law," and People's Law," the founders of this country sought to pattern government after God's wisdom.
3. Foundational to this type of government was the freedom of religion.
4. The enumeration and protection of the rights of man came from a fundamental understanding of his nature.
5. As stated 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...."
6. The first of those rights listed is the right to life.
7. What was meant by, and, more importantly, what does the Bible teach about this principle?

- I. The Right to Life (John 10:10)
 - A. The right to life is a blessing given by God.
 - B. God created man and gave him life (Genesis 2:7; Ecclesiastes 12:7; Zechariah 12:1; Acts 17:25).
 - C. God created man in His own image (Genesis 1:26-27; James 3:9).
 - D. Thus, every life is both intentional and valuable (Matthew 6:26; 10:29-31; 12:11-12; Luke 12:6-7; 1 Corinthians 9:9-10; Psalm 8:3-8; Proverbs 31:8-9).
 1. Note that human life is of greater value than animal life.
 2. Animals are not created in the image of God.
 - E. God wants every person to have eternal life (1 Timothy 2:3-4; Titus 2:11-12; 2 Peter 3:9).
- II. Thou Shalt Not Kill (Exodus 20:13; Romans 13:9)
 - A. The sixth of the Ten Commandments emphasizes the sanctity of human life.
 1. The word for "kill" primarily refers to murder – violent, unauthorized killing.
 2. However, even the accidental taking of another's life was a serious matter (cf. Exodus 21:28-29; Deuteronomy 19:4-6; 22:8).
 3. The God-given right to life condemns murder.
 - B. Capital Punishment
 1. Human life is so precious that when a life is taken, the murderer must pay with his own life (Genesis 4:8-10; 9:6; Exodus 21:14; Leviticus 24:17, 21; Numbers 35:16-19, 33; Deuteronomy 19:11-13).
 2. This principle remains true under the New Testament (Romans 13:4).
 3. This is not revenge, motivated by human emotions, but divine vengeance executed by the will of God (Romans 12:19).

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

- C. Abortion
 1. The Scriptures teach that human life begins in the womb, at conception (Psalm 139:13-16; Isaiah 44:24; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:41; Galatians 1:15).
 2. Thus, each baby in the womb of its mother possesses the right to life.
 3. To kill a child in the womb is murder – just like taking any other human life.
 - D. Euthanasia
 1. Euthanasia is defined as: “The act or practice of ending the life of a person or animal having a terminal illness or a medical condition that causes suffering perceived as incompatible with an acceptable quality of life.”
 - a. The word comes from the Greek, meaning “good death.”
 - b. It is a gentler word for assisted suicide.
 2. To take one’s own life is murder, just like taking the life of another.
 3. Job was presented with this exact scenario when his wife counseled him to “curse God and die,” but Job refused (Job 2:9-10).
 4. When man is viewed as nothing but an animal, the ending of his life is considered of little consequence.
 - E. Life is a precious gift from God that must be protected.
- III. The Right to Bear Arms (Luke 22:35-38)
- A. There are four principles on which the Christian’s right to defend himself are built.
 1. First, there is the command of Jesus (Luke 22:35-38; cf. 10:30).
 2. Next, there is the example of soldiers in the New Testament (Luke 3:10-14).
 3. Third, there is the principle of responsibility toward one’s family (1 Timothy 5:8).
 4. Finally, there is the fact that God has only one law for both Christian and non-Christian (Acts 17:30-31; 1 Timothy 2:1-6; 2 Peter 3:9).
 - B. By these same principles, the Christian also has the right to defend others – his family or his neighbor.
 - C. Thus, the Christian also has the right to defend his country (cf. Esther 8:11-12).
 - D. The Founding Fathers understood that in order to protect the rights described in the Declaration of Independence and those of the First Amendment, the right to bear arms must not be infringed.
 - E. The right to life demands the right of self-defense.
 1. “To preserve liberty, it is essential that the whole body of people always possess arms, and be taught alike especially when young, how to use them” (Richard Henry Lee).
 2. “Every citizen should be a soldier. This was the case with the Greeks and Romans, and must be that of every free state” (Thomas Jefferson).

Conclusion: Choose *life* (Deuteronomy 30:19).