

*“Freedom Fest:
Celebrating Our Freedom, Part II”
“You my brothers, were called to be free...”
Galatians 5:13a*

A. We the people...

1. We are a nation that has a government.
2. Birthed in a Judeo-Christian culture
 - A belief that law finds its root in God
 - Natural law

 - Revealed law
3. An English heritage of self-government
 - Magna Carta 1215
 - English Bill of Rights 1689
4. An American heritage of self-government
 - Mayflower Compact 1620
 - Massachusetts Body of Liberties 1641
 - US Constitution 1789
5. We are a nation that believes liberty and responsibility belong hand in hand.
 - An example from history:
Of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, five were captured and died in British hands, twelve lost their homes and possessions, and nine died of wounds or privation due to war.
 - From Abraham Lincoln: *“...that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to the cause for which they gave **the last full measure of devotion**...”*

B. We created the Bill of Rights to protect our individual liberty.

1. The first ten amendments to the Constitution were added in 1791.
 - Derived from a long history of both English and American documents
 - Constitute our enumerated rights designed to protect us from a hostile government.
2. A look at the First Amendment
There are six rights embodied in the First Amendment:
 - Establishment Clause

 - Free Exercise Clause

 - Freedom of Speech

 - Freedom of the Press

 - Peaceable Assembly

 - Petition for a Redress of Grievances
3. Our responsibility in light of our rights:
 - A right is not a license to do anything I please.
 - A right is a solemn responsibility to live honorably.

“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:37-40

- Without a firm belief, reliance and devotion to Christ this noble experiment will fail.

C. Our greatest freedom, our greatest responsibility:

“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.” Galatians 5:13

“To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, ‘If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’” John 8:31-32

1. Hold to the teaching.
 - Know the truth of His Word.
 - Don’t be a slave to sin.
 - You can experience true freedom in Christ.
2. It is not legalism or license.
 - Freedom in Christ is not a list of to dos and don’ts as if keeping a list can be true freedom.
 - Freedom is not doing anything I want. This person places self before others.
3. Freedom in Christ is true Liberty.
 - We are free not to sin, but to serve.
 - What will you do with your liberty today?

The Bill of Rights

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment III

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense.

Amendment VII

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.