

Most Americans believe in the concept of freedom. The concept of freedom is in The Declaration of Independence. It states: "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; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed" (III. para.2). These founding principles define our lives and freedoms as coming from God, not man. The purpose of government is to protect life and ensure our freedoms are respected. What the founding fathers did was unique. They swapped the places of God and government, creating a stronger country.

Before 1776, government was normally based on the thought that power flowed from God to the king, or whoever was in charge, then finally the people (II. p.27). In doing so, monarchies claimed that their power came from God, their gods, or that they were gods themselves. But, this kind of government was wrong, if not downright evil. This is because it resulted in things like slavery, abortion, poverty and even death. When government controls your life, you don't have the same self-determination because you are not in charge. Likewise, when it controls your liberty, you are not free to do what you want. When it controls your happiness, you can't do what you want because you're not in charge, and you will not be motivated to work hard for the things you enjoy. Here is an example: Imagine two men. They live in the same house, wear the same clothes, eat the same food, and drive the same car. Now imagine the same two men at work. One works ten times harder than the other, who does next to nothing. But no matter how hard the first one works, both men are paid exactly the same amount. How do you think the first man feels? Do you think that he might work less, as he sees the other man getting away with

it? If this happens, then both men will be on “a race to the bottom” and both will be unproductive and unmotivated to work hard for the things they enjoy. Thomas Jefferson said, “A wise and frugal government, which shall leave men free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement and shall not take from the mouth of labor bread it has earned – this is the sum of a good government” (III. p.326).

The founding fathers seemed to have figured this out. They designed our country as a model in which power flows from God to the people and then finally to the government. Because the people’s rights come from God, the government cannot take away the freedom and rights given by God (II p.28). We can shape our government, and our freedoms are then left unthreatened. When our freedoms are left unthreatened, it leaves our lives within our control to live as we please. It also gives us the liberty to enjoy life and practice the religion we choose. Along with that, it lets us pursue our happiness, and unlike the example above, we can feel motivated to do the things we do. But, if we aren’t motivated to do things, then where is our sense of purpose in the things we do and life in general? These freedoms found in the Declaration of Independence lead to a happy country and successful businesses.

If the people’s power does not come from God, then where else can it come from than other people? As we know, all people are corrupted in sin, and if power comes from people, then power is easily corrupted. Another fault that occurs in a system ruled by people is hierarchy, as I often found at recess. Hierarchy discriminates and causes a varying degree of outward worth in a person. This is a problem when all men are supposed to be equal. A problem found in America today is abortion. When people, such as the unborn, are thought of as less.

We cannot reject these truths, found in The Declaration of Independence, endowed by God, and protected by the government (II. p.33). These are that every person is created equal,

## When Rights Are Rejected

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that is, with the same worth and that we, as equal people, all have a right to Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. These freedoms are what make America so special.

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