

Seven Principles

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Throughout my lifetime, I've heard much talk about the "godly principles upon which this country was founded." In 1996, J. David Gowdy wrote an essay entitled "The Seven Principles of Liberty." Gowdy's seven principles include the following, all of which are linked to specific statements made by "founding fathers" of the United States of America:

1. Liberty is of divine origin.
2. Liberty has a price.
3. Liberty is secured by government.
4. Liberty requires unity.
5. Liberty is maintained by obedience to law.
6. Liberty is dependent on virtue.
7. Liberty affords the path to happiness.

Liberty is of divine origin? I am in agreement with this first principle. I believe true liberty is a gift of God. As for the other principles of liberty outlined above, all are problematic, given their context, and some seem downright contradictory to me.

Liberty has a price? We are most likely to hear such statements or to read slogans such as "Freedom is Not Free" at times when young people are compelled to give up their freedom and often their lives in order to fight wars which almost never have anything at all to do with liberty, aside from the liberty to oppress others. I believe true liberty is beyond price. Freedom is priceless.

Liberty is secured by government? This is or has been true when government was truly representative of the people. There was a time when such government was common in the lands that came to be called the "Americas." For thousands of years, fully autonomous and truly democratic local government was the norm. These local governments cooperated together voluntarily within representative federations or confederations for mutual benefit. The right of factional and individual dissent was always respected and recognized. Since the European invasion of these lands, imperialistic governments here, as elsewhere, most often concern themselves with the *curtailment* of liberty.

Liberty *requires* unity? This I find to be no less than an oxymoronic statement. As unity is required, coerced or forced, liberty is lost.

Liberty is maintained by obedience to law? There are certain laws that help people live freely and peaceably. These are natural, common-sense principles, the greatest of which may be expressed in the phrase "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Romans 13:9). However, where law is concerned, common sense is not common. Laws tend to multiply themselves to a ridiculous extent. As laws multiply, far from maintaining liberty, they maintain the people in an ever-tightening state of bondage.

Liberty is dependent on virtue? I agree. However, it seems that virtues are not universal. Imperialistic or colonizing societies hold all forms of abuse and oppression aloft as virtues. These virtues militate against true liberty.

Liberty affords the path to happiness? I believe happiness and liberty *are* linked. However, in the context of the United States, from the very beginning, the happiness of some has been attained and maintained by securing the liberty to oppress others. This is problematic. If some are not free, all are in bondage.

Gowdy introduces his essay with the biblical quote inscribed on the Liberty Bell: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto the inhabitants thereof" (Leviticus 25:10). Gowdy fails to mention that the Liberty Bell is cracked.

Coincidentally, in the same year that Gowdy wrote his essay (1996), I composed my own list of principles upon which the United States of America was founded, as clearly demonstrated by the actions and words of the "founding fathers" and by those who follow them. My list is as follows.

1. Thou shalt kill Indians.

Get started as soon as possible and don't let up until the job is done. There are millions of them (between 12 and 20 million), and they are *not* you. Get rid of them. Use any excuse to start the killing, even though the Indians have befriended you, even though you could not have lived in this land without their sacrificial help.

Once the killing is started, have no mercy. Shoot them with guns. Hunt them with dogs. Burn them with fire as they huddle together in their council houses. Cut down their vineyards and orchards. Burn their crops every fall, so they will sicken and die. While they are thus weakened, introduce new diseases. Place bounties on their scalps. Treat men and women, young and old alike. Kill babies and rip open the bellies of pregnant women with your long knives. Remember, "Nits make lice."

Using Principle Four below, incite wars between their nations, so they will kill each other. Destroy the vast herds of animals upon which they depend. Herd the surviving Indians together onto ever-decreasing reservations. Introduce alcoholic spirits and drive them to despair, so they will kill themselves. Set up Indian hospitals where young Indian women may be sterilized without their knowledge and where all manner of illnesses may be treated, after a long wait, with the words, "Take two aspirin and call me in the morning."

2. Thou shalt rape Indians.

Their women are dangerous; they have power. You do not want your own women to get any ideas from them. Dehumanize the Indian women. Rape is the best way. Don't call them women; call them "squaws." The word comes from one of their own languages, a reference to female private parts. Treat them as though that is all they are. Use them; abuse them.

Even after they are killed, they can still be raped. Afterwards, you may cut their privates out; they make fine hatbands. The men's privates make serviceable tobacco pouches. The skins of their legs may be tanned for knee boots. Their skeletons, whether

taken from battle or dug from their graves, make fine museum specimens. All of this will help your people understand that these Indians are not human. They are just animals, a vanishing species, like the wolf or the bison.

3. Thou shalt steal from Indians.

Nothing in this land belongs to you. You will want to keep this very quiet by use of Principle Four, below. Of course, the Indians are willing to give you anything you need. All you need do is ask politely, but that would not be manly. You are a manly people. Steal from the Indians.

Steal the land. Begin by stealing the thousands and thousands of acres of cleared cropland. Steal even the houses in which the people live. They are good houses. Later, using Principle Four, below, you will tell your children that all the Indians lived in huts or tipis.

Steal the crops the Indians raise. There is no way you can build a sizeable population on the few paltry crops you raised back in Europe. Take their most sacred crops and use them in a profane manner.

Steal the Indians' medicines. God knows you have none of your own.

Steal the Indians' concept of federated government, by the people and for the people. Of course, you know that when *you* use it, it will never be for *all* the people.

Steal their children. Adopt them out to benevolent white families or take them away to good Christian boarding schools where they can have the remnants of their heritage beaten out of them.

Steal their names. Attach them to your big, smelly cities, to your cars and trucks and to your ball teams. This will help you make fun of Indians on Sunday afternoons and Monday nights.

Steal and misapply parts of their cultures, so that everyone can, in some respect, *feel* Indian. Say things like, "I'm Indian too. After all, I'm an Eagle Scout."

4. Thou shalt bear false witness to and about Indians.

This is the most important principle with the exception of Principle Five, below. It's all useless without Principle Five.

When you came to this land, you met millions of people, organized together within hundreds of tribal nations. Most of these nations were further organized into federated republics, something completely foreign to you. There were no kings, no prisons, no poverty. You found people loving their neighbors as themselves and extending a hand to you, a complete stranger. When wars were fought, they were fought to settle disputes, never to annihilate the enemy, and there were rules of warfare which minimized bloodshed. You found greater towns and cities here than what existed in Europe, and they were clean. You had never seen clean people before. They lived in harmony with each other and with the Earth. And, they were spiritual people. Although you arrogantly assumed they had never heard of God, it was clear by their actions that God was already here, living in their midst and in the hearts of many. Forget all of this! Cover all of this up! He who controls the past, controls the future.

You have come to this land to get rich. Tell the Indians and yourselves you have come to worship God in freedom. The Indians know about freedom. It's one of those concepts you stole from them. Tell the Indians that in order to be happy, they must have the things you have: money, whiskey, guns, McDonald's and VCRs. Tell them and yourselves that white people are superior, more deserving and destined, by God, to rule the world. That is the biggest lie of all, but if you say it loud enough and often enough, the Indians will begin to believe it. Who knows? You may begin to believe it yourselves.

Make as many promises to Indians as you can. Write them down on paper. Break every one, then make more! What joy! What fun!

Tell the world and yourselves that there were never many Indians at all, that they were hopeless savages, that you were good to them, that they attacked you for no reason, that they just died out, mysteriously.

Tell the world and yourselves that you founded this country on godly principles. Who knows, maybe someday you will really start to believe that. Maybe someday, even a few Indians will believe it.

5. Thou shalt covet everything that belongs to Indians.

This is the one principle upon which all the others hinge. Want what they have. Desire it with all that is within you. The pursuit of happiness is the pursuit of property. If its pursuit means destroying the life and liberty of others, so be it.

Covet their land and their gold, their freedom and their joy, although none of this will ever be yours. Oh yes, you will possess the land and the gold, but it will *never* be yours. And the freedom and the joy are like feathers you chase on a windy day. Covet them. And when you see that you cannot really own them, destroy them. Destroy the Indians' freedom and joy if you can. At least you can destroy the land. Make it look like Europe! The gold? Go ahead and keep that, a reminder to you of the blood of the Indians and other dark-skinned people who dug it out to the ground for you.

Just remember that nothing, absolutely nothing you have is really yours, so you must forever covet, even as you hold with all the other principles.

6. Thou shalt climb onto the throne of God.

This one is most frightening. A certain angel of light tried it some time ago and failed miserably. However, you are better than he was. Even God must give way to your white superiority.

You must endeavor to convince yourselves and those few Indians who remain that you and you alone brought light and life to this "benighted" land. You must convince yourselves and them that before you arrived; God was not here, but only devils, that there was no hope of salvation before *you* came as Savior. This has to do with Principle Four, above, but is so important that it becomes a principle unto itself.

Try to convince the few Indians you can't kill that they cannot live without you. One of them will stand before you one day and say, "You came to our land. You killed us. You raped us. You stole everything from us. You lied to us. You lusted after all that we had. But for all of that, we are glad that you came. After all, you brought us

God. And since you brought God with you, you must be greater than God himself. You must be God above God, since you brought God in a book.” And on that day you will smile and nod your head in a benevolent and condescending manner.

7. Thou shalt become the self-righteous police of the world.

Whenever anyone in the world, be it Germans or Russians or Hutus or Serbs, takes it upon themselves to learn these principles from you and apply them in their own lands, you must become self-righteously indignant and immediately attack them, *if* it is in your own best interest to do so. If not, then stand apart and rail against them. The rest of the world will take note. The Indians will be confused. However, Indians will volunteer to fight your wars in larger percentages than any other ethnic group. This takes us back to the first principle.