

The 5,000 Year Leap

A Miracle that Changed the World

(National Center for Constitutional Studies www.nccs.net)

Session 3 --Virtuous & Moral Leaders & the Role of Religion

Principle 3—The most promising method of securing a virtuous people is to elect virtuous leaders. “Neither the wisest constitution nor the wisest laws will secure the liberty and happiness of a people whose manners are universally corrupt. He therefore is the truest friend to the liberty of his country who tries most to promote its virtue, and who...will not suffer a man to be chosen into any office of power and trust who is not a wise and virtuous man.” –Samuel Adams

Quiz – Principle 3

1. If men were angels, the government would not be necessary.
2. Jefferson discussed two kinds of aristocracies. Name them.
 - a. Artificial (wealth, birth)
 - b. Natural (virtue, talent, proven ability)
3. John Adams called politics a “Divine Science.”
4. The Founders said the people should serve for what level of salary? Gratis
5. Whom did Franklin mention as an example of this kind of service? Washington
6. What are the two passions which influence the affairs of men?
 - a. Ambition—love of power
 - b. Avarice—love of money
7. Why do these passions become magnified in political office? Bold and violent take over—someone else’s money
8. What did Ben Franklin predict with regard to salaries of elected officials? They will go up
9. What was Pennsylvania’s solution to the problem of too many people running for the same office? Lessen the pay
10. Write the 3rd Principle of Liberty. (see above)

Principle 4—Without religion the government of a free people cannot be maintained. “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports....And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion.”—George Washington

Quiz—Principle 4

1. What legal document required religion to be taught in schools? Northwest Ordinance of 1787
2. What else did it require to be taught? Religion—morality--knowledge
3. Name three of the five points of all “sound religion,” as Franklin explained.
 - a. One God—creator
 - b. He has revealed moral code
 - c. Holds man responsible for how to treat others
 - d. Soul immortal
 - e. Will be judged for what done in this life
4. When Alexis de Tocqueville visited the U.S., what was the first thing that struck his attention? How religious the people were

5. Where, according to de Tocqueville, is the secret to be found of America's genius and power?
Her churches and sects preach the same moral law
6. The Founders intended the Bill of Rights restrictions on religion to apply only to which level of government? Federal government. Religion was left to the state government.
7. Who coined the phrase "Wall of separation between church and state?" Thomas Jefferson in a letter to Danbury Baptists.
8. What did he mean by "church?" Denomination
9. What did he mean by "state?" Federal government
10. Write the 4th principle of liberty. (see above)