



### THE CAUSE OF AMERICA

**"The cause of America is in a great measure the cause of all mankind."** Thomas Paine - **Common Sense**  
Confronted with tyranny, our founding fathers' first declaration of war was the **"Declaration of Independence."** 56 men unwaveringly pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor, not in defense of a good idea, but in defense of universal principles that govern human existence. In this profound document, the writers declare that there are **"powers of the earth," "laws of nature"** subject to **"nature's God," "truth"** that is **"self-evident,"** that men are **"created equal," "endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights"** of **"life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."** These words acknowledge universal laws, protocols of reality, that are designed into our very existence, and cannot be broken without inherent negative consequences. As certain as gravity, these laws of cause and effect are indiscriminate, having no exceptions, exemptions, or exclusions. They cannot be recalled, dismissed, or ignored. Among these universal principles, **three are superior for society:**

**1. The Law of Love: "Disinterested Benevolence"** The "pursuit of happiness" is not a trivial pursuit of self-gratification, wealth or power; rather, it is the right and responsibility to become **"a good soul,"** to produce good without ulterior motives and, when necessary, resist or restrain evil at one's own risk, peril, or sacrifice. The human soul was designed for selfless service. To love selflessly is the true meaning in the "pursuit of happiness."

Ancient philosophers: Aristotle, Plato, and Socrates, used the concept **"eudaimonia"** to describe **"happiness."** The idea of living well and doing well - a complete life lived for the highest good, the final end to which all human actions aim. Eudaimonia involved the fulfillment of one's natural function or purpose as a human being through the exercise of reason and moral virtue. It is tied to justice and the proper ordering of the soul. For Plato, a just person with a well-ordered soul would naturally be happy, regardless of external circumstances. True happiness came from internal harmony of the parts of the soul, with reason governing the appetites and spirit.

**2. The Law of Life: "Reciprocal Service"**. This is the law of good society. When love is reciprocal, "life" is created, generated, and sustained. All humanity is designed to function by the great commandment, "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:39). This is the law of a flourishing society. The "perfect friendship" based on mutual goodwill. When love is not reciprocal, relationships are broken, society becomes self-destructive and unsustainable.

**3. The Law of Liberty: "Inviolability of Conscience"** This principle is the cornerstone of the religious clauses in our Constitution: **"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."** These words transcend mere legal protection for religious practice—they safeguard the American conscience itself, preserving our natural right to individual belief and expression.

When conscience is violated, two inevitable consequences follow: **slavery** and **rebellion**—precisely what the framers of our Constitution sought to prevent. Coercion, force, and manipulation can never elevate humanity toward noble ideals or enable mankind to live and love freely.

**Truth** (Reality Transparency & Honesty) and **Love** (Disinterested Benevolence & Selfless Service) remain the enduring powers of moral governance. These are the prevailing powers of God, essential for preserving freedoms and liberties while preventing the twin perils of subjugation and insurrection. Wisdom teaches us: **"Know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free"** (John 8:32) and **"Perfect love casts out all fear"** (1 John 4:18).

**Freedom of Thought & Expression, Physical Autonomy, and Individual Responsibility** form the basis of the American conscience—deeply personal matters from which our most cherished values arise: **self-determination, self-governance, and self-reliance.** No lasting good comes from a violated conscience.

The following paragraphs remind us of the importance of these words.

"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**, that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness." **Declaration of Independence.**

"The framers of the Constitution recognized the eternal principle that man's relation with his God is above human legislation, and his rights of conscience inalienable. Reasoning was not necessary to establish this truth; we are conscious of it in our own bosoms. It is this consciousness which, in defiance of human laws, has sustained so many martyrs in tortures and flames. They felt that their duty to God was superior to human enactments, and that man could exercise no authority over their consciences. It is an inborn principle which nothing can eradicate."—**Congressional Documents (U.S.A.), serial No. 200, document No. 271.**

"In that grand old document which our forefathers set forth as their bill of rights—the **Declaration of Independence**—they declared: '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.' And the **Constitution** guarantees, in the most explicit terms, the **inviolability of conscience**: 'No religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.' 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.'" **The Great Controversy p. 295**

Our country was founded on **eternal principles** that have **universal significance**. America does not make people free. Free-minded men and women made America and it will take the free-minded to keep America. Defending Liberty from enemies both foreign and domestic is our duty as Americans in and out of uniform service. It is of necessity that we preserve these principles in our societies at home or it will matter very little what wars we fight abroad.

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"Perhaps you and I have lived too long with this miracle to properly be appreciative. Freedom is a fragile thing and it's never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by way of inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people. And those in world history, who have known freedom, and then lost it, have never known it again." **Ronald Reagan**