



The 3322 Project Study Guide 4: On Christian Liberty and Christian Self-Government

Notable Quotations:

“We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all of our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government; upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.” -*James Madison*

“Men are qualified for civil liberty in exact proportion to their disposition to put moral chains upon their own appetites...in proportion as they are more disposed to listen to the counsels of the wise and good, in preference to the flattery of knaves. Society cannot exist, unless a controlling power upon will and appetite be placed somewhere; and the less of it there is within, the more there must be without. It is ordained in the eternal constitution of things, that men of intemperate minds cannot be free. Their passions forge their fetters.” -*Edmund Burke*

“We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge or gallantry would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution is designed only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for any other.” -*John Adams*

“The sum of all is, if we would most truly enjoy the gift of Heaven, let us become a virtuous people; then shall we both deserve and enjoy it. While on the other hand, if we are universally vicious and debauched in our manners, though the form of our

Constitution carries the face of the most exalted freedom, we shall in reality be the most abject slaves.” -*Sam Adams*

“Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.” -*John Jay*

“Of all the dispositions and habits, which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of Patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of Men and Citizens. The mere Politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connexions with private and public felicity.” -*George Washington’s Farewell Address*

Short Questions:

1. What is meant by self-government?
2. Is the freedom that comes with self-government absolute?
3. What do we owe the government?
4. What does the civil government owe us?
5. What happens if the majority of people cease to exercise self-government?

Longer Answer / Essay Questions:

1. What is the relationship between self-government and civil government?
2. What is the lie of the autonomous or sovereign man? Explore its historical progress and implications.
3. Discuss the implications of question 5 at greater length. Do you see this happening in America today? If so, how?

Suggested Further Reading:

Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*

<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/1791burke.asp>

George Washington's *Farewell Address*

https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/resources/pdf/Washingtons_Farewell_Address.pdf