

3322 Project Study Guide 7: We Hold These Truths to be Sacred and Undeniable

Notable Quotations:

“And you He made alive, when you were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience. Among these we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of body and mind, and so we were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” *Ephesians 2:1-7, RSV*

Short Answer Questions:

1. Is coerced virtue true virtue? Give an example.
2. What is a right, properly understood?
3. Can we use our rights for whatever we want?
4. Can anyone revoke our rights?

5. Is freedom to sin actual freedom? Did the Founders think so?

Longer Answer / Essay Questions:

1. What did older thinkers think the word, “Right” meant?
2. What is the new idea of rights? What are some results of this?
3. Does the state have the authority to prohibit certain vicious practices (e.g. prostitution, drug intake) If so, why?

Suggested Additional Reading:

Declaration of Independence

<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript>

Constitution, esp. Bill of Rights

<https://constitutioncenter.org/media/files/constitution.pdf>

Thomas Aquinas on Law, *Summa Theologiae, First Part of the Second Part, Question 90.*

<https://www.newadvent.org/summa/2090.htm#article2>