



Focus on Religious Freedom

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Celebrating Annual Constitution Day on September 17, 2024

Constitution of the United States: The Preamble

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Since 2005 our nation has celebrated Constitution Day each Sept. 17 which marks the signing of the Constitution in 1787. Each school receiving federal funds is directed by the Department of Education to provide a lesson about the United States Constitution on Sept. 17. Some schools have a Constitution Week with many events, lessons and assemblies focused on our Constitution.

As American citizens experiencing an intense and divisive election season, we would benefit from grounding ourselves in the framework of our nation by reading and considering each word of the preamble to our Constitution. We are the beneficiaries of the first and only documents adopted by a whole nation declaring themselves to be capable of and deserving of self-government.

The grounding of our Declaration of Independence, Constitution and the rule of law of our nation in rights from our creator and in the Judeo-Christian ethic, is unique in history and has for almost 250 years guided us as citizens. We have come together in spite of differing opinions or methodology to preserve a Republic where First Amendment freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom to peaceably assemble and freedom to petition our government for redress of grievances have been the foundation of liberty...al liberty so protected and so beneficent as to make make our country the envy of the world.

During his 2008 visit to the White House, Pope Benedict directed us, “ From the dawn of the Republic, America’s quest for freedom has been guided by the conviction that the principles governing political and social life are intimately linked to a moral order based on the dominion of God, the Creator.” Freedom is not only a gift, but also a summons to personal responsibility... The preservation of freedom calls for the cultivation of virtue, self-discipline, sacrifice for the common good and a sense of responsibility towards the less fortunate. It also demands the courage to engage in civic life and to bring one’s deepest beliefs and values to reasoned public debate.”

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/2pcdhymb> <https://tinyurl.com/4sa4uamt> <https://tinyurl.com/3h4pksh4>