

Inalienable Human Rights Affirmed in Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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This week is the 70th anniversary of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirmed many inalienable human rights (though it contains other so-called “rights” that are not inherent). *Inalienable, inherent, or endowed* human rights are God-given. Below I’m giving you something priceless, namely, some of the Biblical foundations for these God-given inalienable human rights affirmed in the UDHR.

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience ...” (Article 1).

- The term “endowed” refers to what the Creator did for all mankind.
- Born free and equal: Genesis 1:26-27; 10:32; Luke 4:16-21; Acts 17:24-28; I Peter 2:16.
- Endowed with reason and conscience: Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7–3:22; Romans 1:19; 2:14-16.

“Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person” (Article 3).

- Right to life: Genesis 1:26-27; 9:6; Psalm 139:13-16; Ecclesiastes 11:5.
- Liberty is from God, who gave mankind enormous freedom with accountability to Him: Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7-8, 15-16; 3; 9:1, 7; Psalm 115:16; Isaiah 61:1; II Corinthians 3:17.
- Right to security of person: Genesis 9:6; Exodus 20:13-17; 22:9.

“Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. ... The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society” (Article 16).

- Marriage and family were created by God: Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7, 18-25; 4:1-2, 25; 6:18; 7:7, 13; 8:16; 9:1,7; 10:32.

“Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance” (Article 18).

- God Himself has jurisdiction over these realms. Civil government has none!
- Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion: Job 38:36; Jeremiah 17:10; Matthew 22:37; Acts 25:23-27; 26:30-31.
- Freedom to change one’s religion or belief: I Kings 18:20-39; Isaiah 29:24; John 8:31-36; Acts 2:41; 4:4; 9:1-31; 16:14-40; 17:16-34; 22:1-29; Galatians 5:1.
- Freedom and duty to worship God privately and publicly: Genesis 4:3-5, 26; 8:20-21; 12:7; 26:24-25; 28:10-22; 46:1-4; Exodus 20:1-6; Deuteronomy 6:13-14; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Daniel 3; Matthew 28:1, 9, 16, 17; Acts 17:27.
- Freedom to manifest, teach, practice, and observe one’s religion: Genesis 18:19; Deut. 4:9-10; 6:6-7, 20-25; 11:18-21; Psalm 78:1-8; 145:4; Daniel 6; Acts 2; 4; 5:29.

“Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association” (Article 20).

- Freedom of peaceful assembly: Exodus 4:29-31; Leviticus 8:1, 3; Deuteronomy 4:10; 31:12; Nehemiah 8:1-12; Matthew 4:23-25; 5:1-2; 8:1; 9:35; 16:29-38; 19:1-2; Luke 22:7-14; 24:33-36; Acts 2:1-14, 42, 46; I Corinthians 14:26.
- Freedom of association: Exodus 12:48-49; Isaiah 56:1-3, 6-8; Matthew 4:18-22; 9:9, 10-13; 10:1-4; 12:46-50; Acts 1:12-15; 2:37-47.

In the American Colonies, 11 years before the Declaration of Independence and at a time when the future of liberty and inalienable rights were at grave risk, legal scholar John Adams (later President of U.S.A.) boldly declared: “Let it be known that (our) liberties are not the grants of princes and parliaments, but original rights ... inherent and essential ... before a parliament existed.”¹ Nearly a decade later, in 1774, attorney and legislator Thomas Jefferson (later President of U.S.A.) observed, “The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time.”² Rightly did these future presidents recognize that every inalienable right comes from God.

At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God. By coming as a man, and being born of a woman, He affirmed life as a sacred gift and the womb as a sacred place. He came and gave His life that we might have forgiveness of sins, new life and life eternal. Let us worship the Savior of the world!

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All Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible.

¹ John Adams, *Dissertation on the Canon and Feudal Law*, 1765, in *The Works of John Adams – Second President of the United States*, Charles Francis Adams (grandson), editor (Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1850), Vol. I, p. 195. <http://oll.libertyfund.org/>

² Thomas Jefferson, Esq., Member, Virginia House of Burgesses, *A Summary View of the Rights of British America*, August 1774, *Thomas Jefferson: Writings*, Merrill D. Peterson, compiler (Library of America, 1984)[ISBN 0-940450-16-X], p. 122.