

A. Introduction

- a. It doesn't seem like the United States of America is very _____ right now.
- b. Some people love division because there is a lot of _____ to be made in keeping us divided.
- c. Why don't we despise _____ as much as we despise people who don't vote like us?

B. The Constitution

- a. One thing most people _____ about our nation is the Bill of Rights.
- b. _____ must be coupled with responsibility or things go terribly wrong.
- c. The _____ doesn't inspire greatness, virtue, or responsibility.

C. Freedom and Responsibility

- a. Christians can provide national _____ informed by the law of Christ.
- b. The Apostle Paul says “do not _____ your freedom for your benefit.”
- c. The Apostle Paul quotes Jesus and says the entire law is summed up in one command – “to _____ your neighbor as yourself.”
- d. The Apostle Paul says that if you are so consumed by your rights and your entitlements you will be _____ by one another.

D. Application

- a. Here are three statements that will help us use our personal freedom the way God intended:
 - i. Do what is _____, not what I can justify.
 - ii. Do what is responsible, not what is _____.
 - iii. Do what is _____, not what is modeled.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *July 4-9, 2022*

INTRODUCTION

Red or Blue. Left or Right. For or Against. It sometimes feels like the United States isn't very united. There's something we can do about that, and it has less to do with our rights and more to do with our responsibility.

Monday: Luke 10:25-37

Jesus sums up all the commandments by saying that they are all about loving God and loving others. What are some specific examples of what it looks like to "love your neighbor as yourself" in today's current political landscape. In light of those examples, does this command seem practical . . . or even possible? Why or why not?

Tuesday: Romans 12:1-2

The apostle Paul says that we are to live our lives as a living sacrifice to God. As Christians, we are not just accountable to the laws of our nation, we are accountable to live a life that honors God. John Adams once said "*Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.*" He is saying that if there is no moral consensus and sense of divine accountability, this grand experiment of personal freedom will fail. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

Wednesday: John 13:33-36

Jesus gives his disciples their marching orders to love one another. He said this was how others would know we're really his followers. Not by how long we pray, how loud we preach, or what we do on Sunday mornings. In what areas of your life are you tempted to exert your individual rights without regard for the rights of others?

Thursday: Galatians 5:13-15

The apostle Paul is saying that we will destroy ourselves as a society when everything becomes about our own individual rights. Do you think America's biggest threat is from forces outside our country (other nations, terrorism etc.) or do you think our biggest threat is from a society where everyone puts their own rights first?

Friday: Matthew 7:7-12

Jesus says that we should treat people the same way we wish to be treated. This is known as the golden rule. Do you think that our laws as a society promote the golden rule or do you think it takes more than laws to make this happen in a society?

MOVING FORWARD

Individual rights assume individual responsibility. We are a nation of laws, but we can do better. We as Christians are commanded to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to do unto others as God, through Christ, has done unto us. Leveraging our individual rights for the benefit of others will prevent our liberty from devouring itself.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) united, B) money, C) division. IIA) appreciate, B) Rights, IIC) law IIIA) consciousness, B) leverage, C) love, D) destroyed. IVA) just, B) permissible, IV) moral.