



# Update

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## Forgiveness Brings Breakthrough

The responses of the students in my two classes at the Calvary Commission Bible Institute have been exciting. Each class has a very “family” feeling about it, and often someone will say something like, “Oh, that is talking to me!” I often see an expression change from a smile to a serious face as the teaching strikes at a stronghold in their lives.

Recently I taught on forgiveness emphasizing that an offense means we have experienced a “loss” of some kind. As we worked through the various aspects of holding others in emotional debt to us in unforgiveness, two of the men applied it after class, forgave each other of the offenses they were holding, and walked away in fellowship with each other.

Keep praying for complete breakthrough for every student, and for the Lord’s anointing on me to have a “now” word that speaks to their immediate need amid an otherwise academic lesson. ✨

## What’s going on in America?

This is not a political article but an attempt to shed some light on the underlying struggle in America. As I meet people in different situations, I have been taking my own “poll.” The average person—Democrat, Independent, or Republican—is watching the various issues unfold in our nation and is wondering what to make of it all.

From what I see, we are in a culture war between socialism and free enterprise. Because there are so many shades of meaning to these two terms, let’s start with definitions.

**Socialism** is where a central government controls society by issuing laws and regulations that touch every area of life. Taking it to its end-result, in countries with full-blown socialism, a citizen’s life is controlled in every aspect by the government—sometimes to the extent of where they live, the job they have, the wages they are paid, where they travel, their education,

and their health care. While the idea of equality for all people on all levels of a person’s life sounds good on paper, it is against human nature to try to live under total control—it kills incentive, kills creativity, destroys liberty, and stagnates an economy.

**Free enterprise** is where a central government legislates laws and regulations that govern human nature so that each citizen has the liberty to pursue their livelihood according to their own choices. Another way to say it, the function of the government is to protect the unalienable rights of her citizens and

to protect each individual’s freedom to take advantage of opportunities.

The Declaration of Independence says, *that all men...are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights....* The word “unalienable” means that something cannot be separated, given away, or taken away without doing damage to the original purpose. For example, the legs of a table are unalienable to a table. Take the legs off, and it can no longer function in its purpose as a table. Unalienable rights are built into the fabric of human life; our Creator gave them to us. People didn’t invent them, they only discovered them.

*An unalienable right doesn’t cost you or anyone else any money. It just is!*

My research reveals that, generally speaking, the Founders were well read in the Scripture and had been raised with the Scripture being a part of their education. They lived by the principles contained in the Ten Commandments, or they knew they ought to be living by them. They referred to God as “Creator” out of respect for His name.

The colonial population was over 99% Christian in their orientation, although many did not attend church. The Founders varied widely in their theological views, but were in agreement on what the Scripture taught about treatment of others.

As our founding leaders studied various authors in search of a government model, they found

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“ancient principles,” as Thomas Jefferson called them, in the Old Testament administrative structure of Moses. They also studied Anglo-Saxon law in the original documents which were the root to English law in centuries past. When Jefferson and others compared Anglo-Saxon law and Israel’s law as given to Moses, they found the two were identical in their core principles.

Going a little deeper, unalienable rights are revealed in the Ten Commandments. For instance: The commandment says, “You shall not steal.” It is an unalienable right to own things and not have them stolen. The commandment says, “You shall not murder.” It is an unalienable right for each person to have his life protected, both the born and unborn. The commandment says, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” It is an unalienable right to have the truth spoken concerning you and your affairs.

**True Needs are different than unalienable rights.** When people are free to live within their unalienable rights, “true need” will be met. A “true need” is something basic to all people, and when the people express their will concerning that true need, it is a signal to their representatives in Congress to enact laws and policies to protect those true needs, and in turn exercise its power to enforce those policies.

“True needs” must be earned in honest labor or management of time and possessions. True needs are not an unalienable right; the unalienable right is the freedom to seek the job to provide true needs. When a person is not capable of work or able to supply basic needs, it is out of **biblically based compassion** they

are helped, not out of an inalienable right for government support.

In colonial times, Great Britain took away the unalienable rights of free trade with other countries, the right to travel, the right to speak freely, and the right to worship apart from the Church of England, and the list goes on. The result was financial hardship, businesses were destroyed and people were unable to provide for their families.

When unalienable rights were restored, people were free to meet material needs, pursue business, travel at will, create laws that benefited everyone, and were free to worship as they chose. In comparison to European powers, our tiny nation made huge strides in every way because of the liberty of God-given unalienable rights.

**Privileges are different than unalienable rights.** In this article, a privilege is the freedom to enter into an activity where you may enjoy participation, earn money, or have the privilege of the use of something. Remember, an unalienable right doesn’t cost you or anyone else any money.

I have the unalienable right to own and drive an automobile. It is not an unalienable right that everybody own an automobile, it is a privilege to own one. As soon as I exercise an unalienable right, it goes over into privilege and someone has to pay for the privilege.

**Laws are needed.** Just laws that govern us are necessary. In any society, there are always people who will take undue advantage of others. To people of discernment who understand God’s order in things, it is grievous to talk with some who think the government should meet all material needs of its people. If the government meets

material needs, the government will control.

It has been my privilege to visit three communist/socialist nations and talk with everyday working people. In one country, a person had to have a written pass to visit a neighboring town. In another, professionally trained people made barely above an untrained person and was assigned where they would work. It was common to have their homes “inspected” at any time to make certain they didn’t own more than “they should.” In Romania after the revolution, all the money was in the hands of the upper levels of the Communist party members, demonstrating the hypocrisy that everyone had “equal” provision.

**The Socialist Party of America.** There are stark differences between socialism and free enterprise. The liberals want government to control all areas of life. The conservatives are fighting for free enterprise. The principles of free enterprise were the principles in Scripture upon which this nation was built.

Rev. Norman Thomas (1884-1968) was a leading American socialist and six-time presidential candidate for the Socialist Party of America. Do a search on the internet. He said in a 1944 speech: ***The American people will never knowingly adopt socialism. But, under the name of ‘liberalism,’ they will adopt every fragment of the socialist program, until one day America will be a socialist nation, without knowing how it happened.***

He went on to say: ***I no longer need to run as a Presidential Candidate for the Socialist Party. The Democratic Party has adopted our platform.*** ✨

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