



INTRODUCTION

The United States of America is a nation of laws. But laws don't inspire greatness, excellence, or virtue. In fact, when we confuse what is legal with what is moral, everyone looks for a loophole to serve his or her own interests. The rich rule the poor, women become commodities, and children become victims. The law causes us to look down. It takes something else to inspire us to look up.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your favorite Fourth of July tradition? What meaning does it have for you?
2. What are some examples in our culture of how individual rights are no longer anchored to personal responsibility?
3. In what areas are you tempted to exert your individual rights without regard for the personal responsibility that goes along with those rights?
4. Read Galatians 5:13-14. Talk about some specific examples of what it looks like to "love your neighbor as yourself" in our current political landscape. In light of those examples, does this command seem practical . . . or even possible? Why or why not?
5. During the message, Andy said, *"If there is no moral consensus and sense of divine accountability, this grand experiment of personal freedom will fail. Liberty will devour our liberty."* Do you agree? Why or why not?
6. This week, as you interact with those who are different from you, what is one way you can honor God by doing what is responsible instead of what is permissible? What can this group do to support you?

MOVING FORWARD

Individual rights assume individual responsibility. We are a nation of laws, but we can do better. 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.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Galatians 5:13-14