
“The Declaration of Independence, Washington’s Farewell Address, and the Constitution of the United States, should be studied by the youth of our country, as their *political scriptures*. . . .”

Emma Willard, *The History of the United States*, 1845; *The Christian History of the Constitution*, p. 405

Spirit of the Law

The Declaration of Independence
July 4, 1776

- Intent of the law
- Principle, source and origin, of America; causes and reasons for our independent existence
- Conforming to the higher power/law—The Law of Nature and Nature’s God
- Faith in the absolute power of God

Letter of the Law

*The Constitution of
The United States of America*
September 17, 1787

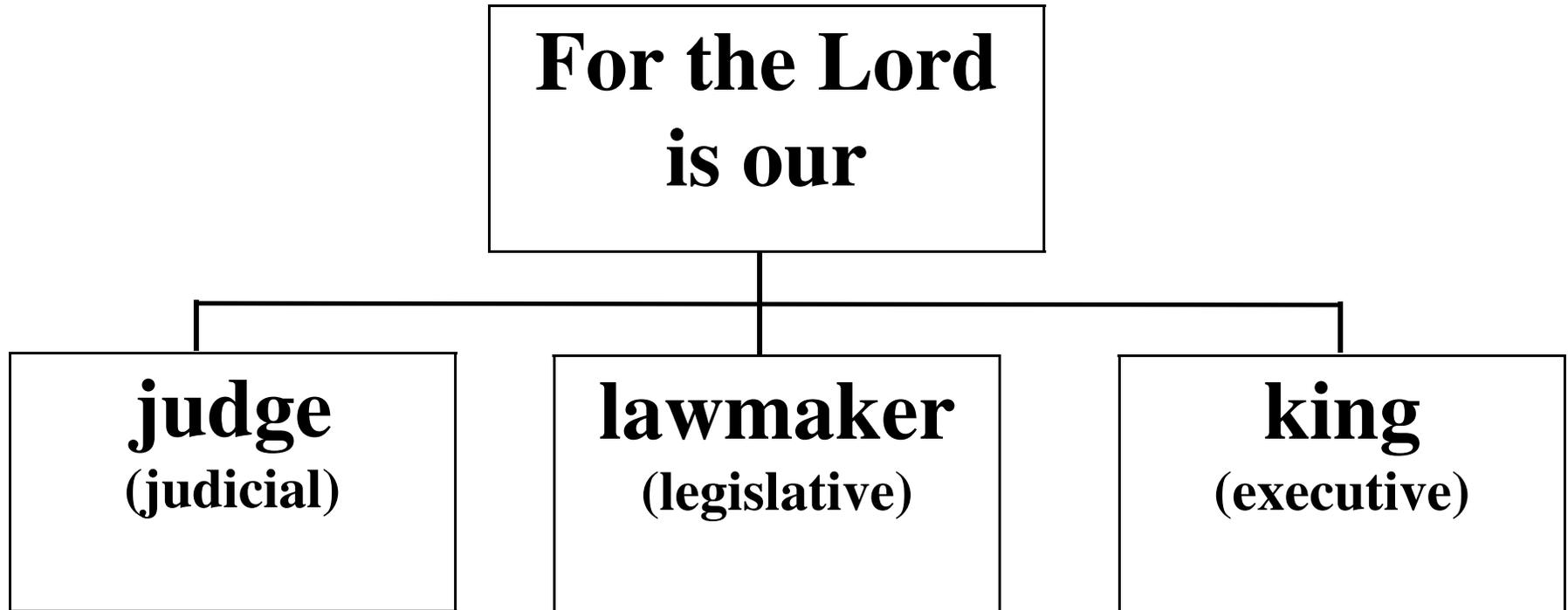
- Explicit expression of intent
- Effect of an education in common principles
- All equal under the supremacy of one law
Delegated powers defined and delimited: what powers may and may not do
Government by consent through elected lawmakers
Laws encouraging and promoting the good and punishing the evildoer
- Faith in the absolute power of God manifested by works

Faithful Ministry of the Spirit and Letter of the Law

George Washington’s *Farewell Address*
1796

- Fulfilling the law
- Maintaining America’s independence
 - Domestic Policies
 - Foreign Policies
- Conforming to The Law of Nations
- Obedience to the absolute power of God

THREE FUNCTIONS OF POWER IN THE GOVERNMENT
OF MEN AND NATIONS: ISAIAH 33:22



THE SPIRIT OF LAWS
BY CHARLES DE MONTESQUIEU, 1750

“... the three great departments of power should be separate and distinct. The oracle who is always consulted and cited on this subject is the celebrated Montesqueiu... this essential precaution in favor of liberty.”

— James Madson, Federalist Papers No. 47

TYRANNY

When Legislative and Executive are united in the same body: apprehensions may arise, lest the same monarch or senate should enact tyrannical laws, to execute them in a tyrannical manner.

When Judiciary not separated from Legislative: the life and liberty of the individual would be exposed to arbitrary control; the judge would be the legislator.

When Judiciary joined to executive: the judge might behave with violence and oppression.

“And that ye study to be quiet, and
to **do your own business**,
and to work with your own hands,
as we commanded you;
That ye may walk **honestly**
toward them that are without,
and that ye may have
lack of nothing.”

(I Thessalonians 4:11–12)

What civil government
may do.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

What civil government
may *not* do.

- Perfect the Union
- Establish Justice
- Insure Domestic Tranquillity
- Provide for the Common Defense
- Promote the General Welfare
- Secure the Blessings of Liberty to Ourselves and Our Posterity

AMENDMENT I.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

AMENDMENT II.

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

AMENDMENT III.

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

AMENDMENT IV.

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particular describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

AMENDMENT V.

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be completed in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

AMENDMENT VI.

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

AMENDMENT VII.

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

AMENDMENT VIII.

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

AMENDMENT IX.

The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

AMENDMENT X.

“Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even to them: for this is the law of the prophets.”

(Matthew 7:12)

“And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them”

(Luke 6:31)

George Washington's *Farewell Address*, 1796

Domestic Policies

- shun *geographic discriminations*
- resist the *spirit of innovation*
- avoid *party spirit*
- ministers *confine themselves within* their respective *consitutional spheres*
- not ungenerously *throwing upon posterity the burden which we ourselves ought to bear*

Foreign Policies

- Observe good faith and justice towards all Nations. *Permanent, inveterate antipathies* against particular nations and *passionate attachments* for others, *should be excluded*.
- *Just and amicable feelings towards all* should be cultivated. *Cultivate peace and harmony with all*.
- The great rule of conduct for us, in regard to foreign Nations, is, in extending our commercial relations, to *have with them as little POLITICAL connection as possible*—So far as we have already formed engagements, let them be fulfilled with perfect good faith.
- *Steer clear of permanent alliances*, with any portion of the foreign world;—so far, I mean, as we are now at liberty to do it...
- Taking care always to *keep ourselves*, by suitable establishments, *on a respectable defensive posture*, we may safely trust to temporary alliances for extraordinary emergencies.
- Our commercial policy should hold an *equal and impartial hand*: —neither seeking nor granting exclusive favors or preferences: —consulting the natural course of things; —diffusing and diversifying by gentle means the streams of commerce, but *forcing nothing*. . .

“The principled, virtuous stands George Washington took throughout his public office career should have been practiced by succeeding office holders in all areas of government since 1800.

But, with pitifully few exceptions, we have forgotten and rejected Washington’s American Christian philosophy of government.

And by degrees, generation by generation, since his time, have eroded into the soft, compromising despicable attitude of human expedience—peace at any price—which has but one conclusion, unless corrected, tyranny and slavery.”

—Verna M. Hall, 1970

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- History instructs us in *the political absolutes which pertain universally*, to all men and nations.
- Mankind’s return to *absolutes in The Law of Nature and The Law of Nations* culminated in the establishment of America.
- America’s political scriptures are *guides to determine what tendencies are for our good* or for our evil as a nation
- May we *have it in our hand of power* to stop that which tends to evil and accelerate the tendencies to that which is good.