

Bedrock Principles of Liberty

PRINCIPLE ONE

God exists, has established an ordered and moral universe, and holds humanity accountable.

Let's consider Scripture and highlight several key points of overlap between biblical teachings and the Founders' ideals.

FOURTH — People are accountable to God.

Nature speaks so clearly about God that God can, and does, rightly hold people to be without excuse for rejecting or ignoring Him. In other words, people are accountable to God.

Note that in Psalm 14, David wrote, "The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." He continues,

14:1b They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good.

In the New Testament, Scripture is even more explicit about human accountability to God. Here is what Romans 1:18-23 says (note the added emphases).

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because **what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.** 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are **clearly seen**, being **understood** by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are **without excuse**, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things (Rom. 1:18-23).

God effectively painted a portrait of Himself on the canvas of nature, declaring that He exists and created everything that is. He spoke—and speaks—so clearly that *no one* can fail to understand. God's self-portrait is unambiguous. Specifically, since "His eternal power and Godhead" (v. 20) are evident, people know from what they see in nature to look for God, not *in* nature, but *beyond* it. While we need to know more about God than creation tells us, we have all the information about God from nature that we need to respond to Him positively *initially*.

The natural world gives us a window into the unchanging nature of God and therefore the unchanging nature of morality—right and wrong. Truth is like the law of gravity. It is not something that is negotiable, nor is it something that can be invented by each person. Instead, it is observable. It also is discovered, and it applies to everyone at all times and in all places. Adjusting ourselves to accept and conform to the realities we discover paves the way for fulfillment and happiness in life.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What kinds of excuses might the atheist or agnostic offer to God on the day when God holds them accountable?
2. In your own words, explain why each and every one of these will be inadequate—in other words, why each and every one of these will be just an excuse.
3. How does affirming and upholding the phrase "the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God" indicate the Founders understood they were accountable to God?

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