

Sermon Questions

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness (property)
Miscellaneous Texts
Pastor Jeff Hinds

Key verse of the passage?

Main/key point(s) of the sermon?

What did or did not make sense in the sermon?

What in the sermon spoke most to you at this point in your life?

Did you see/hear God in the sermon?

Sermon Notes

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness (property)
Miscellaneous Texts
Pastor Jeff Hinds

The United States Declaration of Independence claims that we all have certain unalienable rights, and among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness (defined by the 5th Amendment as ownership of property). Are these claims Biblically true?

1. **Life:** Every human life is made in God's image (Genesis 1:26–27). God has even claimed redeemed people from every tribe and language and people and nation (Revelation 5:9). People matter to God, and they must matter to us. Capital punishment is allowable, by a just government, precisely because human life is so valuable (Genesis 9:4–6; Romans 13:1–4). *Murder is reprehensible to God, as human life matters (Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5; Matthew 5, 19). *God values life equally outside the womb and within the womb (Exodus 21:22–23; Psalm 139:14–16; Jeremiah 1:5).
2. **Liberty:** God desires all people to pursue freedom (1 Corinthians 7:21). A dark chapter in US history, and many other parts of the world, was/is slavery. Pure evil! Juneteenth rightly celebrates the final declaration of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865 (2.5 years after the proclamation was issued). *Liberty also includes religious freedom. No government ever has the right to steal religious freedom from its people (Exodus 1; Daniel 3; Acts 5).
3. **Property:** God owns everything—including us (Psalm 24:1–2), yet He graciously allows us to create wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18), but we are to use our wealth in God-honoring ways (2 Corinthians 8–9). God also demands the protection of property (Exodus 22; Deuteronomy 19, 27; Hosea 5; Leviticus 19; Proverbs 11; etc.).