

“What the U.S. Constitution means to me and how I can protect it.”

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I was not born in the U.S. but came here when I was three years old. I love this country because of the Judeo-Christian principles it was founded upon. As a Christian I believe that God has continued to bless this country greatly and I consider myself blessed to be a part of it. Some of my earliest memories are hearing people reference the United States as “the land of the free and the home of the brave.” Being so young, I wondered what that meant. Only later on did I discover that those words were part of the National Anthem written by Francis Scott Key and how important those words are to us as a society because they characterize what the U.S. stands for.

It is no wonder that our Constitution is admired all over the world. William Gladstone described it as *“the most wonderful work ever struck off a given time by the brain and purpose of man.”* I will not deny the patriotic pride I felt swelling in my chest the day I read a column written in the Romanian newspaper by Cornel Nistorescu. He wrote a moving story on people’s response on that tragic day 9/11/ 2001. He was in awe of the unity that was displayed, in the end he concluded that the “glue” that holds Americans together is the freedom we share.

He stated,

“Why are Americans so united? They would not resemble one another even if you painted them all one color! They speak all the languages of the world and form an astonishing mixture of civilizations and religious beliefs. Still, the American tragedy turned three hundred million people into a hand put on the heart...”

“...what on earth can unite the Americans in such a way? Their land? Their galloping history? Their economic Power? Money? I tried for hours to find an answer, humming songs and murmuring phrases with the risk of sounding commonplace. I thought things over, but I reached only one conclusion...Only freedom can work such miracles.”¹

¹ http://www.suddenlink.net/pages/jimhug/ode_to_america.html [Date Assessed September 13, 2019]

The U.S. Constitution was not written by perfect men, but many of the framers looked to the perfect God. They recognized that freedom was not granted by a man or a country; it had nothing to do with color or creed or what a person owned or didn't own. Instead, through the Constitution, the framers acknowledged the truth that people's rights and freedom are given to them by their Creator! We are all equal because that is how God made us.

The U.S. Constitution means two things to me; freedom and protection. Freedom is a very important word to me because I believe that it is the right of each and every person because we are all made in the image of the Almighty God. Freedom is the foundational theme of the U.S. Constitution and a part of it means too that my voice counts. Also, I can worship Jesus without fear of persecution. That same freedom extends to the Buddhist, the Hindu, the Muslim and the atheist.

Part of my family is from a region where you can be persecuted for being a Christian. My grandparents told me stories when I was young about the injustices done to their people because of whom they chose to worship. Some stories are incredibly sad; families forced to convert to Islam or face death. People lived their lives in fear and oppression daring not to share their faith. In that same region, women are considered inferior to men and have few if any rights. Women are considered second class citizens and cannot seek out opportunities for themselves.

However, living in the U.S. has allowed me the freedom to pursue an education, to go to the Bible College where I can learn about the Lord, and have the right to serve Christ in ministry without fear or ridicule - or worse. This is one of the many things I love about this country; you can be anything you want to be. You can reach for the stars. A woman can be a doctor or an astronaut or run for the highest political office in the land. The Constitution recognizes and encourages that very right.

At the same time, the Constitution was established to protect. The establishment of the three separate branches of government was the purpose to prevent tyranny. The effects of tyranny throughout the world today are daily realities. They oppress and devalue humans, two things which are the very opposite of what the Constitution sought to do.

How can I protect the Constitution? Well, I think the most important thing I can do is to honor the spirit of it in my everyday life. It is a beacon of light which is felt throughout the nations, a light that has brought peace, happiness and stability in many people's lives. I also believe that protecting the Constitution means that I have to be vocal in my defense of it. The U.S. has many enemies both inside and out, and they would love to see the Constitution attacked and dismantled. With the inalienable rights that God gave me, it provides me the opportunity for my voice and the voices of others to be heard. The sentence "We the people" is powerful!

I'm reminded of the words of John Adams, *"You will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it."*

These words put into perspective for me that: the freedom we enjoy today was not free; our founding fathers fought long and hard to establish this amazing country. I hope to honor their legacy by making sure that what they have done will not come undone in my lifetime. I pray for the strength and courage to fight for this country. God Bless America!