

## 2017 Essay

“Liberty cannot be preserved without a general knowledge among the people, who have a right, from the frame of their nature, to knowledge, as their great Creator, who does nothing in vain, has given them understandings, and a desire to know; but besides this, they have a right, an indisputable, unalienable, indefeasible, divine right to that most dreaded and envied kind of knowledge; I mean, of the characters and conduct of their rulers.” — John Adams

How can we preserve Liberty? In my paper today I will answer this question. Liberty is a gift that has been given to us by our Creator and we must preserve our liberty today, tomorrow, and forever. One quote that stands out to me is from Aelgrnon Sidney, he says, “Liberty cannot be preserved, if the manners of the people are corrupted.” I believe that this is very true, the people and the leaders cannot be corrupted or our country will lose it’s liberty and we will fall into bondage. John Adams once said, “Liberty, once lost, is lost forever.” From this quotes we can see that we can’t lose liberty ever, or we will never get it back. Liberty is something powerful, but also something that needs to be protected always. We can’t let anyone infringe upon our precious liberty.

We must all know the character and conduct of our leaders. When putting leaders into office they promise to protect our liberty, and they promise to do what is right. But is that not just propaganda? When have we had a leader who is true to their word, actually true to the continuation, true to this nations, true to the people. If we don’t know their character and conduct we put our liberty in jeopardy, which is a scary place to be.

A scripture from the Bible, that I love, is found in 2 Peter 2:19. It says, “While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.” Bondage is a real thing, it is not talking about physical bondage. It’s talking about mental and emotional bondage becomes mental bondage is when we allow someone to be in control of our minds, which is propaganda. In emotional bondage we allow those around us to play with our emotions, which also can be propaganda. Propaganda is everywhere. I think this is also one of the reasons our nation is so corrupt. We allow this propaganda into our system and it stays there until we start believing it so much that we can’t be told otherwise. Propaganda is what Hitler used to make everyone believe that he is a great man and that he is more like a “god” than a man. I am in a World War II history class, and one of my friends told us that a man in her church told them that his Dad still believes Hitler to be a great man. To this day after so many years we still have so many people who believe that propaganda. It’s not true and most of us know that Hitler was an evil man. But when we have propaganda, it makes it so real that we don’t think that it is not. By this our nation that we have is becoming a place I am frightened to live in.

I need to know that this country is being led by a man or woman who is moral and has a good character. Who will make our nation great again? More and more in our world today people are becoming corrupt, wanting power instead of wanting peace, happiness, and LIBERTY. Not only are the leaders becoming corrupt, we as a people are becoming more and more corrupt. We as a country are falling away from true liberty. I personally feel we are rejecting what our founding fathers made for us. Those were men called from God to make a free country and we our taking if for granted and we are slowly rejecting our leaders who have moral character. I hope that we all preserve liberty in our own way. Some ways we can preserve liberty is by speaking up, looking for moral leaders, and knowing why we have liberty and why it’s important to us, our children and our nation. Liberty is our precious gift that we as a nation get to enjoy. Preserve liberty today, tomorrow, and forever!

Jessica Collet