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When the Constitutional Convention ended, Benjamin Franklin left Independence Hall and was asked what kind of government we now had a republic or a monarchy. “A republic, madam, if you can keep it.” – Benjamin Franklin

## Why are we so divided as a nation?

We have competing world views.

1. “Freedom,” Equality, Liberty:

2. Government:

3. Human nature:

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## Government – part 1

Truth and Grace – part 19

August 27, 2023

### “Separation of Church and State”

“Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers, and our country.”

The First Amendment:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..”

### Basic Principles of Government

1. God established government to deal with the problem of human nature

*1 Peter 2:13 Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority,<sup>14</sup> or to governors, **who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong** and to **commend those who do right.***

Submit: Rom. 13:1; Titus 3:1.

“If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and the next place, oblige it to control itself.” -James Madison

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## 2. Corrupt people, corrupt rulers

*Genesis 6:12 God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.*

*Prov. 29:4 By justice a king gives a country stability, but one who is greedy for bribes tears it down.*

*Isaiah 10:1 Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees.*

“Power tends to corrupt and  
absolute power corrupts absolutely.  
Great men are almost always bad men,  
even when they exercise influence and not authority;  
still more when you superadd the tendency of  
the certainty of corruption by authority.”  
-Lord Acton

## 3. Limited government only works with “self”- government

*Psalms 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.*

*Prov. 14:34 Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people.*

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## Applying the principles of the bible and human nature, to our American government

### 1. Six immutable principles

There is a divine Creator

Inalienable rights come from God.

Government exists to protect inalienable rights.

There is a fixed moral law

The consent of the governed

The people’s right to change their government

### 2. Separation of powers

*Genesis 11:3 They said to each other, “Come, let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. <sup>4</sup> Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”*

*<sup>5</sup> But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. <sup>6</sup> The LORD said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. <sup>7</sup> Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.”*

*<sup>8</sup> So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. <sup>9</sup> That is why it was called Babel <sup>2</sup>—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world...*

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