

YES YOU HAVE RIGHTS...



BOOK 3

Youth Edition



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**Produced by the Executive of
the Thusian Institute for Religious
Liberty Inc. (TIRL) of
St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG)**

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INTRODUCTION

Everyone should know that he or she has Rights and Freedoms that come from God, the Creator. With this in mind, the Thusian Institute for Religious Liberty Inc., a non-profit organization that provides Human Rights Education for all, with a special emphasis on the Right to Religious Liberty which is the supreme right, is happy to present this book to you.

The book teaches you about your rights and freedoms in very interesting ways using poetry, songs, dialogues, and more. As we pursue the sustenance and enjoyment of our basic Rights, we ought not to deny or violate the Rights of others in the process. Once this be the case in any society, the social climate therein would give way to the fullest development of that society, judicially, intellectually and socially inter alia .

In exercising our rights, we also need to learn to exercise tolerance towards each other, even if we may hold different beliefs and opinions. As we learn more about our rights and freedoms, we become more conscious of how we must be civil to one another. We will also relate to each other with tenderness and patience. Most of all, we will have greater respect for the Creator who has made us with these inalienable rights and freedoms that must be respected.

(Footnote) All scriptures in this book are quoted from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

CHAPTER 1

WHO GAVE RIGHTS AND WHAT IS A RIGHT

Human Rights are endowed to all human beings by our Creator. Rights are **not** privileges given to us by anyone; For example Ministers of government. Rights are not given to us by anything; For example nature, human dignity or human legislation. They come from God who has made us with them. These rights are inalienable and inviolable and they must be respected by all. No one has more rights than another person; For example, a rich man does not have more rights than a poor man; a Prime Minister does not have more rights than a vagrant; a boy does not have more rights than a girl; a father does not have more rights than a mother.

A Right can be described as **“A Divinely required life sustaining behavioral code of equality under law”**.

“Divinely required” - means God gave us our Rights. When God made man, He required and He commanded that men should love each other by respecting each other’s Rights. “... Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.” Romans 13:8-10.

“Life sustaining” - given so that our physical and spiritual life can be preserved. The Right to Religious Liberty pre

serves spiritual life and ultimately physical life. The Right to life and to private property preserve physical life. Jesus said “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill , and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.” John 10:10

“Behavioural codes” - these tell us how to behave towards each other. The right behaviours have been defined by God for all men. “If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well...” James 2:8-12

“Equality under law” – The Rights of man are for all men making all men equal. The Law of God gives all men the same Rights. Thus, Rights are equal for all under law. “Ye shall have one manner of law, as well for the stranger, as for one of your own country: for I *am* the LORD your God.” Leviticus 24:22

MY RIGHTS

My Rights are divine
They come from God
My Rights are life-sustaining
They come from the Lord
The Right to serve God or the Right to Religious
Liberty
As well as the Right to life and the Right to private
property

My Rights are inalienable!
My Rights are inviolable!
They teach me how to behave
From childhood unto the grave
To do no ill to my neighbour
Whose Rights come from the Creator

Rights make all human equal
Whether student, dean or principal
My Rights must be respected
And by the state protected
Because they come from God,
The Creator of heaven and earth.

By Jeanell A James

QUICK QUIZ!



This quiz is based on chapter one.

Circle the letter which corresponds to the correct answer.

1. Who gave us our rights?

- A. Nature
- B. The Creator-God
- C. Human
- D. Government

2. Our rights must be protected and _____ by every-one.

- A. respected
- B. disrespected
- C. violated
- D. disregarded

3. Does a boy have more rights than a girl?

- A. Yes
- B. Sometimes
- C. No
- D. Most times

4. Rights are codes that tell us how to relate to our _____ .

- A. constitution
- B. animals
- C. flowers
- D. fellowmen

This quiz continues on the next page.

QUIZ (continued From page 9)

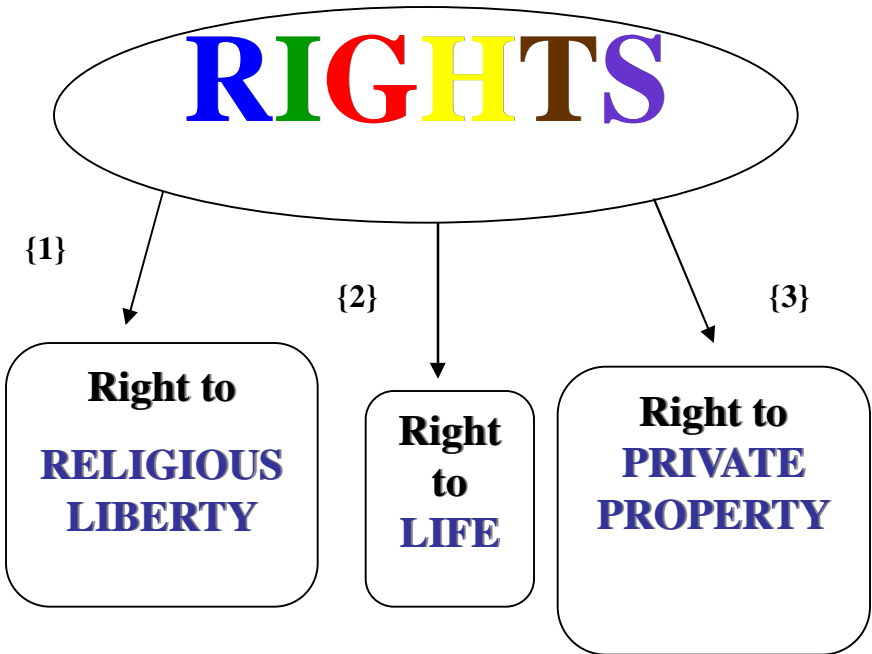
5. “Rights are life sustaining.” This means that they _____ our spiritual and physical life.
- A. take away
 - B. uphold
 - C. destroy
 - D. limit
6. “Owe no man anything but to love one another: for he that love another hath fulfilled the law” is found in the book of _____ .
- A. John
 - B. Romans
 - C. Exodus
 - D. James
7. Our rights are _____ .
- A. exchangeable
 - B. alienable
 - C. transferable
 - D. inalienable

END OF QUIZ

CHAPTER 2

THE THREE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF MAN

All human beings are created with three fundamental rights.



We have the responsibility of understanding our rights and how to respect the rights of our fellowmen.

The *FIRST* right is the **Right to serve God**. It is the first of all our duties to our Creator. It is for this reason that Solomon says that the whole duty of all humanity is to fear God and keep His commandments.

The **SECOND** of the basic rights is the **Right to life**. We exist to worship our Creator and to be a blessing to everyone.

The **THIRD** right is the **Right to private property**. God has given us the ability to own things to sustain our lives and be happy. The things that we own include clothes, house, land, pens, pencils, books, snacks and other things. No one should take them away from us without our permission.

??? QUESTION TIME

Answer all the questions below, based on what you learnt in chapter two.

1. Human being were created with Rights.
 - a. With how many Rights are human beings created?
 - b. Write each of these Rights.
3. Who said that the whole duty of man is to “fear God and keep His commandments”?
4. Name three examples of private property.

CHAPTER 3

RIGHTS AND THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

Did you know that the three fundamental rights can be found in the ten (10) commandments which are given to all human beings by the Creator?

THE

LAW

I

THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME (EXO 20:3.)

II

THOU SHALT NOT MAKE UNTO THEE ANY GRAVEN IMAGE OR ANY LIKENESS OF ANYTHING THAT IS IN THE HEAVEN ABOVE OR THAT IS IN THE EARTH BENEATH, OR THAT IS IN THE WATER UNDER THE EARTH. (THOU SHALT NOT BOW DOWN THYSELF TO THEM, NOR SERVE THEM: FOR I THE LORD THY GOD AM A JEALOUS GOD, VISITING THE INIQUITY OF THE FATHERS UPON THE CHILDREN UNTO THE THIRD AND FOURTH GENERATION OF THEM THAT HATE ME; AND SHEWING MERCY UNTO THOUSANDS OF THEM THAT LOVE ME, AND KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS (EXO 20:4-6.)

III

THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN; FOR THE LORD WILL NOT HOLD HIM GUILTLess THAT TAKETH HIS NAME IN VAIN (EXO 20:7.)

IV

REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, TO KEEP IT HOLY. SIX DAYS SHALT THOU LABOUR AND DO ALL THY WORK: BUT THE SEVENTH DAY IS THE SABBATH OF THE LORD THY GOD: IN IT THOU SHALT NOT DO ANY WORK, THOU, NOR THY SON, NOR THY DAUGHTER, THY MAN-SERVANT, NOR THY MAIDSERVANT,

NOR THY CATTLE, NOR THY STRANGER THAT IS WITHIN THY GATES: FOR IN SIX DAYS THE LORD MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH, THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IN THEM IS, AND RESTED THE SEVENTH DAY; WHEREFORE THE LORD BLESSED THE SABBATH DAY, AND HALLOWED IT (EXO 20:8-11.)

V

HONOUR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER: THAT THY DAYS MAY BE LONG UPON THE LAND WHICH THE LORD THY GOD GIVETH THEE (EXO 20:12.)

VI

THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT MURDER (EXO 20:13.)

VII

THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY (EXO 20:14.)

VIII

THOU SHALT NOT STEAL (EXO 20:15.)

IX

THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST THY NEIGHBOUR (EXO 20:16.)

X

THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHBOUR'S HOUSE, THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHBOUR'S WIFE, NOR HIS MAN-SERVANT, NOR HIS MAIDSERVANT, NOR HIS OX, NOR HIS ASS, NOR ANYTHING THAT IS THY NEIGHBOUR'S (EXO 20:17.)

The Ten Commandments show the duty that we have towards God and towards everyone else. To obey the commandments is the same as to respect the Rights of God. When we do this we will respect the Rights of our neighbours.

Let us look at the *first* commandment which says:

“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” Exodus 20:3
God is our Creator, so we must worship Him alone. He gave us the Right to Religious Liberty to serve Him alone.

Let us look at the *sixth* commandment which says:

“Thou shalt not kill.” (or do no murder) Exodus 20:13
God has given life to all of us. This means that we have the Right to life. No one should destroy another person’s life because of an evil heart.

God commands us to love one another and **not** to murder or destroy one another.

The *eighth* commandment says:

“Thou shalt not steal.” Exodus 20:15

If you have respect for everyone, this means that you will not steal their school items, money or anything belonging to them. God commands that we must not steal from one another. He has given all of us the Right to own things which become our private property.

We must respect the Rights of God and human Rights.

THE RIGHTS OF GOD

**Right alone to be worshipped by all -
Matthew 4: 10**

**Right to be the lone source of truth to all -
Isaiah 43: 11,12**

**Right to be the only judge of all -
Psalms 75: 7**

TEN COMMANDMENTS & THE RIGHTS OF MAN

- (i) Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Verse 3
- (ii) Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image... Verse 4-6
- (iii) Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain. Verse 7
- (iv) Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy... The seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God... Verse 8-11

The Right
to
Religious
Liberty

- (v) Honour thy father and thy mother. Verse 12
- (vi) Thou shalt not kill (murder). Verse 13
- (ix) Thou shalt not bear false witness. Verse 16

The Right
to
Life

- (viii) Thou shalt not steal. Verse 15
- (vii) Thou shalt not commit adultery. Verse 14
- (x) Thou shalt not covet. Verse 17

The Right
to
Private
Property

Read the 10 commandments and ask God to put His love in your heart so that you can keep them. This would enable you to respect Him and your fellowmen.

RIGHTS AND YOU

Answer all the questions below, based on what you learnt in chapter three.

1. List the Rights of God.
2. Write two (2) commandments that show the Right to Religious Liberty.
3. Write two (2) commandments that show the Right to life.
4. Write two (2) commandments that show the Right to private property.
5. If Shane steals Zane's notebook which of Zane's rights is Shane violating?
6. If Herod decides to put John in prison because he is a Christian, which of John's rights is Herod violating?
7. If a woman murders a man, which of his rights is she violating?

CHAPTER 4

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITHOUT THE RIGHTS OF MAN

We were given life to serve God. In order to stay alive, we must have private property.

Right to Religious Liberty



Right to Life



Right to Private Property



So what will happen without the Rights of man?

Think about these:

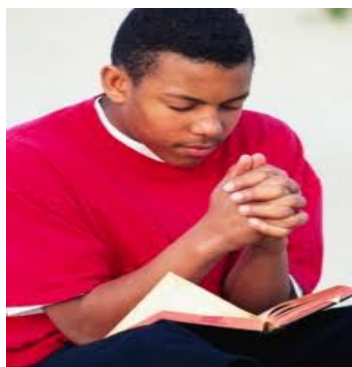
A. With no Right to Religious Liberty, human beings would not have the ability to think and reason. We will not have conscience and intelligence. We will not be able to worship our Creator. We would be just like animals.

B. With no Right to Life, we will cease to live. People would think that it is right to murder one another.

C. With no Right to Private Property, no one would have anything as his or her own. People would take from one another freely without punishment.

CHAPTER 5

THE RIGHT TO RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



The most important right is our Right to Religious Liberty. It is also called the First Right. It is a matter of conscience.

In his book *Individuality In Religion*, Adventist Pioneer, Alonzo T. Jones explains that:

Religious Liberty therefore is man's exemption from the domination of others, or from restrictive circumstances: man's freedom to make choice and decide his conduct for himself, spontaneously and voluntarily; in his duty to his Creator, and in the manner of discharging that duty.

Each person has the right to Religious Liberty, the freedom from restrictions, domination of others when exercising his thoughts, beliefs, conscience, opinion, choice, expression, speech and movement in service to his God. In his pursuit of such, the rights and freedoms of others ought not to be violated.



Can you tell what your best-friend is thinking right now?

Can someone read your thoughts?

How will you know what your friend thinks of you?

Only God can read our thoughts. This is the reason that God did not tell anyone to punish another person for the thoughts in that person's mind.

Jesus also shows that we serve and love Him with our minds. It is our first duty. He says, "...The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord; And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment." Mark 12: 29, 30

Do you know of anyone who was persecuted for his/her religious beliefs?

Can you think of anyone who tried to stop you from being obedient to God?

Go to the next page and learn how Mark stood up respectfully for his God-given Right to Religious Liberty!

STANDING FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY!

Mark is very quiet today in comparison to other days. He is reflecting on a conversion he had with his Social Studies teacher. His teacher told him that he does not have the right to criticize people's religion. He decides to chat with two school mates about his experience.

Junior: Hi guys, what's up?

Mark: I'm ok.

Patrick: I'm cool.

Junior: Why you're so quiet today...nothing to preach about?

Patrick: Ha, ha, he always has plenty to preach about.

Mark: Guys, today I had a discussion with Miss May after Social Studies class.

Junior: About your religion again?

Mark: It was about religious matters.

Patrick: Boy, I keep telling you to try to keep your beliefs to yourself you know...you will get in trouble with those people. You know they don't like your religion already...

Mark: Hold on , so what are you saying? I am not free to share my religion?

Patrick: Yes but...

Junior: Everybody's free to share his or her religion. We live in a free country.

Mark: I'm very glad you've said that Junior because I had to tell Miss that it is my God-given right to share my religious beliefs. Miss doesn't think that I have the right to tell people they will be lost if they don't love Jesus by keeping His commandments.

Mark: I had to tell Miss that before Christ went back to heaven He told his disciples to go into all the world and teach all nations, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever He has commanded...And that Christ also says if we love Him, we will keep his commandments.

Patrick: You told Miss that? You're brave!

Junior: Wow...you preached a sermon to Miss May?

Mark: I did it respectfully. I also showed her what the Constitution of the land has to say about freedom of conscience and freedom of expression.

Patrick: The constitution of St. Vincent and the Grenadines talks about those things too? I have never read that!

Junior: Can you show us those things?

Mark : Our Constitution protects our *freedom of conscience*. It says in Section 9 (1)

“Except with his own consent, a person shall not be hindered in the enjoyment of his freedom of conscience, including freedom of thought and of religion, freedom to change his religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others, and both in public and in private, to manifest and propagate his religion or belief in worship, teaching, practice and observance.”

Patrick: So, Miss May was wrong to tell you don't preach your religion and don't speak against another person's religious views then?

Mark: Yes. She was wrong. I am glad I was able to tell her what the Bible says and what the Constitution says.

Patrick: So what did she say after that?

Mark: She said she didn't really want to get into that.

Patrick: That's all she said?

Mark: Yes.

Junior: You're really brave...(with laughter) Let me buy you a malt for your bravery .

Mark: It was the right thing to do.

Junior: I wish I could be just like that.

Mark: You can be. Just accept Jesus as your Saviour and live a true Christian life. It is Christ that makes us bold to stand up for what is right.

Junior: I'll think about it.

Patrick: Me too.

(They all leave for the tuck shop.)

By Ann-Marie Ballantyne

HERE AND ABROAD

Answer the following questions carefully, based on what you have learnt in chapter five.

Part I

1. Which right is the most important right?
2. Write your understanding of Alonzo T. Jones' quote on Religious Liberty.
3. Why didn't God tell anyone to punish another person for the thoughts in that person's mind?
4. Comment on Mark's response to his Social Studies teacher when she told him he did not have the right to criticize other people's religion.
5. If you were Mark, what would you have said to your teacher?

Part II

1. Find out and write down at least one case of the violation of the Right to Religious Liberty which occurred in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- 2 a. Find out about cases of the violation of the Right to Religious Liberty **in the Caribbean**. Write down **at least one** example, stating the **name of the country** where the violation occurred
- 2 b. How do you think the violation in question 2 a, could have been avoided?

HERE AND ABROAD

(continued)

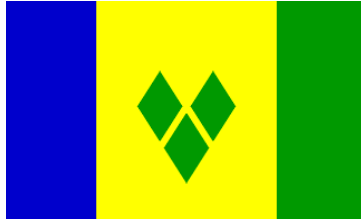
3 a. Find out about cases of the violation of the Right to Religious Liberty **outside the Caribbean**. Write down **at least one** example, stating the **name of the country** where the violation occurred.

3 b. If you were the victim in question 3 a, what would you do?

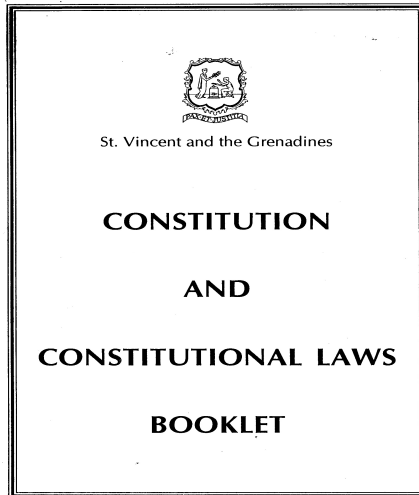
4. What would you say to someone who has violated the Right to Religious Liberty of another person in order to help him or her not to repeat this violation?

CHAPTER 6

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS PROTECTED IN THE CONSTITUTION OF SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES



The constitution is a national document that tells us about the Rights that we have.



It contains the Rights and Freedoms that we, as Vincentians, enjoy. When we read the constitution we know the Rights of our friends, family and neighbours.

These Rights must be respected. It also tells us how a Government is supposed to treat the citizens. Governments must always respect and protect the Rights of the people. They must not be tyrants.

Let us look at a section of chapter 1 in the Constitution of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Read it carefully to see what Rights and Freedoms it speaks about:

The following is taken from the Constitution and Constitutional Laws Booklet of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines CHAPTER 1 under *Protection of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms*.

1. “Whereas every person in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is entitled to the fundamental rights and freedoms, that is to say, the right, whatever his race, place of origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex, but subject to respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for the public interest , to each and all of the following, namely_
 1. Life, liberty, security of the person and the protection of the law;
 2. Freedom of conscience, of expression and of assembly and association:
 3. Protection for the privacy of his home and other property and from deprivation of property without compensation.

The provision of this chapter shall have effect for the purpose of affording protection to those rights and freedoms subject to such limitations of that protection as are contained in those provisions, being limitations designed to ensure that the enjoyment of the said rights and freedoms by any person does not prejudice the

rights and freedoms of others or the public interest.”

The constitution also protects our Right to Freedom of Conscience.

Protection of freedom of conscience

9. (1) “Except with his own consent, a person shall not be hindered in the enjoyment of his freedom of conscience, including freedom of thought and of religion, freedom to change his religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others, and both in public and in private, to manifest and propagate his religion or belief in worship, teaching, practice and observance.”

Even while you are at school the constitution protects your Right to Religious Liberty.

9. (2) “Except with his own consent (or, if he is a person under the age of eighteen years, the consent of his guardian) a person attending any place of education, detained in any prison or corrective institution or serving in a naval, military or air force shall not be required to receive religious instructions or to take part in or attend any religious ceremony or observance if that instruction ceremony or observance relates to a religion that is not his own.”

Some countries make changes to their constitution sometimes.

We call this process “Constitution Reform”. In 2003, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines started Constitution Reform. On November 25, 2009 in a national referendum, the majority of Vincenians (almost 57%) voted to continue with the present constitution without any changes to it. This constitution governed Saint Vincent and the Grenadines since 1979.

We, the people are the ones who should decide what changes are made to our constitution. We must always ask for laws to go into

our constitution that will further protect the Rights and Freedoms of all of us and make our country a safer and happier place. Have you ever read the constitution of your country? Has your country ever had Constitution Reform?

YOUR TURN TO SPEAK

This exercise tests the knowledge and skills that you have gained from chapter six. Have fun!

Work with a friend to discuss the topic *“Reasons why the Constitution Should Protect Our Fundamental Rights and Freedoms”*.

When you have finished, share your reasons with the class.



CHAPTER 7

THE LINK BETWEEN FREEDOMS AND THE RIGHTS OF MAN

Freedoms are natural abilities that are given to us by God. Freedoms are sometimes called subordinate Rights. We use Freedoms to exercise our Rights. Remember that you must use your Freedoms to do the right things. For example, you have Freedom of speech but you must not use your mouth to curse and lie about other people's character.

You have freedom of movement but you must not use your hands to steal your neighbour's things or to murder another person. If you use your Freedoms to violate other people's Rights, you can be punished by the law. For example, you can go to jail or pay a fine if you steal. If you murder, you can be put to death because God has given the Government the right to take your life (which is called capital punishment) for the evil that you have done.

You are not free to steal your neighbours' things. You are not free to murder a person. God wants us to use our freedoms to serve Him and help one another.

If someone is fighting, cursing, smoking or doing other bad things you are free to warn him or her and encourage that person to serve God. If you see that a Government is not using the country's money wisely, you can call upon them to be wise and serve the people well. You must also encourage persons when you see that they are doing right. For example, if Paul, one of your classmates, finds a ruler, pencil, pen or anything and takes it to the teacher to identify its owner, then you should encourage Paul by telling him that he did the right thing.

Has anyone ever told you what your freedoms are? We have a total of **eight** natural freedoms. They are:

- Freedom of thought
- Freedom of belief
- Freedom of opinion
- Freedom of conscience
- Freedom of choice
- Freedom of expression
- Freedom of speech
- Freedom of movement

The eight freedoms can be divided into two categories. They are:

Category (1) Private Domain Freedoms
Category (2) Public Domain Freedoms

The Private Domain Freedoms are:

- Freedom of thought
- Freedom of belief
- Freedom of opinion
- Freedom of conscience
- Freedom of choice

The Public Domain Freedoms are:

- Freedom of expression
- Freedom of speech
- Freedom of movement

Private Domain Freedoms take place in the *privacy of the mind* whereas *Public Domain Freedoms* are *expressed in the public*.

Do you know what a person is thinking?

Can you see thoughts flowing through a person's mind the same way you can see a person walking on the road? No! You cannot see it. So Freedom of thought is a *Private Domain Freedom*.

Think about movement. When a person moves, do you see it? Yes. So it is a *Public Domain Freedom*.

LONG LIVE FREEDOM!

Now that you have learnt about freedoms in chapter seven, answer the following questions.

1. Give the meaning of freedoms.
2. Who gave you your freedoms?
3. What is another name for freedoms?
4. What should you use your freedoms to do?
5. How many natural freedoms do you have?
6. Name the two categories of freedoms.
 - 7a. How many freedoms are there in each category?
 - b. List all the freedoms in each category stated in 7 a..
8. Which category of freedoms are exercised in the mind only?
9. Which category of freedoms is expressed outside the mind?

FREEDOM SONG



(Chorus)

Everybody wants Freedom, Everybody wants Freedom
Freedom of thought, Freedom to talk
Everybody wants freedom, Everybody wants freedom
Freedom of speech, Freedom to teach

We have a Constitution with Freedom of Religion
Respect our Rights, protect our Rights
We ask the present government to make no bad amendment
Respect our Rights, Defend our Rights

The Media must be sincere; Of courts they must have no fear
You have your rights, stand up and fight
The cost of liberty is struggle eternally
You have your rights, stand up and fight!

We have a population that needs some inspiration
Time to stand up, Tyrants to stop
We're drifting into slavery and soon we will not be free
Time to stand up, Tyrants must stop!

Everybody wants Freedom, Everybody wants Freedom
Freedom of thought, Freedom to talk
Everybody wants Freedom, Everybody wants Freedom
Freedom of speech, Freedom to teach
Freedom of press, Free to express.

By Nyron Medina

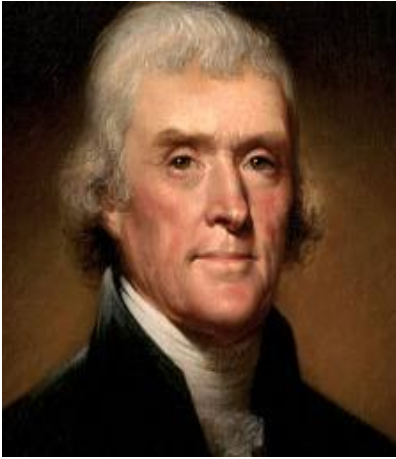
CHAPTER 8

TYPES OF GOVERNMENT

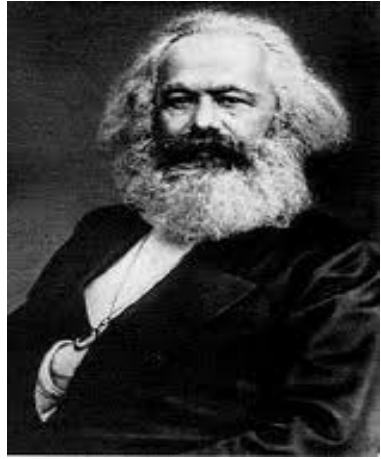
REPUBLICANISM

VS.

COMMUNISM



Thomas Jefferson(1743-1826)



Karl Marx(1818-1883)

Thomas Jefferson was the Writer of the Declaration of Independence(1776) And 3rd President of the U.S.A.

In 1848, Karl Marx, supported by Freidrich Engles, completed the Communist Manifesto.

Quotes from Thomas Jefferson:

The republican is the only form of government which is not eternally at open or secret war with the rights of mankind.

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Quotes from Karl Marx: The theory of Communism may be summed up in one sentence: Abolish all private property.

Religion ... is the opium of the people.

The interview below will help you to understand the different types of government as it relates to Rights. You can read it with a friend.

Q. What is a government?

A. A government is a body of representatives of a people that governs a nation or people. It has policy and executive powers in a state. Romans 13:1-7

Q. What types of governments are there?

A. **There** are really two types of governments. That is, no matter what types of political theories there may be, they all fall into just two basic types. They are: (1) Republicanism and (2) Communism.

Q. What is Republicanism or a republican government?

A. Republicanism is a political theory that recognizes that the Rights of man are God-ordained; inviolable and inalienable and must be protected and kept as such by government policy. A government that sets up a political system that achieves the autonomy of the Rights of man is republican.

Q. What are the emphases of Republicanism?

A. Republicanism emphasizes freedom and limited government. Also, it emphasizes a mechanism of redress for grievances of the people, and Rights protection.

Q. What is communism or a communist government?

A. Communism is a political theory that advocate the Rights of man as originating in man, human law, or in the will of the people. It does not recognize the Rights of man as God-ordained but a given by the state or government.

Q. What more can be said about communism

A. Communism exists in a state where the laws transgress the Rights of man and where the security and military forces have authority to do the same. Under communism, a political system is so structured as to repress protests, dissent or efforts to seek redress of grievances. This repression is done by law; by the judiciary and by the state security forces. Communism is anti-rights. 1Samuel 8:4-18

Q. What does ‘anti-Rights’ mean?

A. Anti-Rights mean “against the Rights of man” or a “suppression of the Rights of man”. Some ideologies, philosophies and political theories are basically anti-Rights.

Q. Could you give examples of anti-Rights ideologies, philosophies, and political theories?

A. Yes! Communism or socialism of Karl Marx; Engles; Lenin; Chairman Mao and Mr. Fidel Castro of Cuba are all anti-Rights. Plato’s philosophies as explained in His books The Republic and The Law are all anti-Rights. Various forms of parliamentary democracies are more or less anti-Rights, but they all fall under the stigma of Communism, just as the concept of the “divine right of kings.”

Q. Why do you single out the use of the word “communism”?

A. Because the word “communism” as used by the communists, identify a close-knit society like commune that is totally controlled by a representative group. Freedom and limited government are not recognized.

Q. What is a Democracy?

A. The word “democracy” is being increasingly misused by today’s society. Democracy is not so much about respect man’s Rights. Democracy is merely a political method of putting a government in power, legislating laws and governing a country.

Q. Why do you say that Democracy is not so much about respect for man’s Rights?

A. I say so because the political wishes of the majority are more respected with neglect to the minority since the majority puts the government into power against the wishes of the minority. The issue with democracy is merely political Right to put the political party chosen by the majority of an electorate into governmental power.

Q. Is Democracy therefore imperfect?

A. Yes. Democracy is imperfect, but it is the best we have to work with in a sinful world. Democracy can put the political party in power that gets the most votes, but it may not be the majority of an electorate. Democracy can also put a party with Republican principles in power or, a party with Communist principles. Through Democracy, we can vote out of office the government we do not like, although we may not be able to do so as soon as we want.

Q. How can Democracy best work?

A. Democracy can best work if a constitution of a nation is Republican and guarantees a Republican form of government practice by whatever political party is voted into office. This is the system that the United States of America professes.

Q. Why do you make the issues of Republicanism and Communism relate to Rights and not to an economic theory like Capitalism or maybe like Socialist economics as many political scientists have done?

A. Because to make economics and business the real issue is a gross deception fostered by Karl Marx's materialist doctrines. The issue about government and ideology or political theory is the Rights of the people that are governed under the ideology, not about types of economics. 1 Samuel 8:4-18; 1Kings 3:4-14

Q. Why do you say that?

A. Because even the issues about wages, labour, and profits; even the issues about exploitation and poverty relate to man's Rights to private property and its enjoyment; and the Right to life. This is the real heart of the matter.

Excerpt from Human rights catechism by Nyron Medina

Q. Why do you imply that Communism fosters gross deception?

A. Because when people are deceived by Communist propaganda and activism to put a Communistic party into political office, it is not because they want that party or government to take away their religious liberty, or by violent and repressive measures to take away their Right to life, or to take away their Right to private property and its enjoyment and claim that everything belongs to the state which really means that the government in power has full rights to that Property. What the people sought to gain by civil disobedience or rebellion was a respect for their Right to life by the rejected government, or respect for their Right to private property and its enjoyment against exploitation. All this shows that people should always be vigilant when choosing a government. They should choose Republicanism for the protection of their God-ordained Rights.

SEEING THE DIFFERENCE...

Respond to the questions below based on the interview you've just read above.

1. State the MAJOR difference between the two types of government which exist.
2. Is Democracy a type of government? Give reasons for your answer.
3. What do you understand by the word “Anti-right”?
 - (i) Give ONE example of Anti-Rights ideologies.
 - (ii) List TWO countries which practice these ideologies.
4. Why should the issues of government relate to Rights and **not** to economic theories? Answer in your own words.

CHAPTER 9

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT



(Heads of Government and Heads of Delegation of CARICOM Member States and Associate Members on stage at the Opening Ceremony of the 32nd Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government 30 June 2011 at the Sir Cecil Jacobs Auditorium, Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, St Kitts and Nevis)

Governments are set up by God for the purpose of protecting the God-given inalienable Rights and Freedoms of **all** the citizens of a country.

In her book *Socialist Revolution*, Vincentian social activist, Anesia Baptiste says, “Any leader and government of a country must have certain important principles of good governance. Central to good governance is the understanding expressed in the following lines of the declaration of independence of the United States of America:

“ *“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.”*

Mrs. Baptiste further shows that “Governments **are servants of the people and the people are their employers and the true rulers of their own destiny**. It is by the people’s votes that they put governments into office and remove them likewise. Therefore their tenure is by the permission of the people and the people judge them on the their behavior at the end of the term of office. People do not put governments in place by their votes only to have them trample upon their rights and freedoms. While governments are elected by the will of the majority, they are to govern or serve by the duty to protect the inalienable rights and freedoms of **both the majority and the minority**. If this is not the case there would be tyranny of the majority over the rights and freedoms of the minority.” IBID pg.64

On the next page is a dialogue between a Rights’ Educator (RE) and a Government Minister (GM) giving us more understanding about the **role of government**. Read and dramatize the dialogue.

GM: What is the role of government?

RE: The role of government is to do the sacred, God-ordained job of respecting and protecting the basic Rights of man by good governance, legislation, fostering a public climate of respect for Rights, and ensuring the freedoms of the people. Romans 13:1-7; 1Kings 3:4-14

GM: What then is the origin of government?

RE: God ordained government. Government is formed when a people living in a community with each other, agree to elect some of their people as representatives of the whole people solely for the sake of ensuring and protecting their God-ordained Rights.

GM: What warning does this then give to repressive governments?

RE: It tells repressive governments that when they begin to restrict or take away the Rights of the people, they are stepping out of line by going against the very reason for their existence, and for their position in sacred office.

GM: What is the justifiable course to pursue when government becomes oppressive or begins to take away the Rights of man?

RE: Christians can pray and ask God for help to stop that government. A representative group of people can visit their representatives in parliament or congress and protest. Letters and articles can be written in books, magazines and the press; and spoken through the electronic media, utilizing the subordinate Rights of freedom of expression and freedom of the press under political freedom, to lodge complaints to the government to seek redress of their grievances. Also public rallies and protests can be done to sensitize the people and warn the government.

GM: Why should all this be done to enlighten and sensitize the people?

RE: All these efforts should be pursued because the Rights and freedoms of a people guarantee their success and happiness under sinful man, and the peace of society is ensured when self denying efforts, even against personal comfort, are made to make government listen to the people and not use deceit to have their way. Exodus 20:1-17; Romans 13:8-10

GM: Why should government listen to the voice of protests for redress of grievances?

RE: Because government is not a law unto itself. It is put into political office to serve the people and derives its just authority from the consent of the governed.

GM: What is the price to be paid for freedom?

RE: Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom. Self denying efforts with much personal discomfort is the price to be paid for the preservation of the Rights of man in a sinful world.

CHAPTER 10

HOW TO RESPOND TO CRITICISM

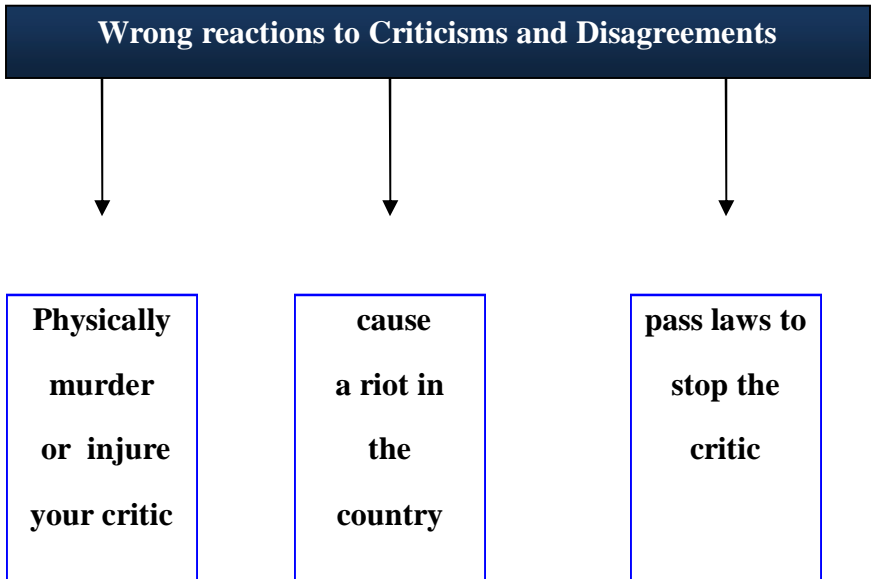
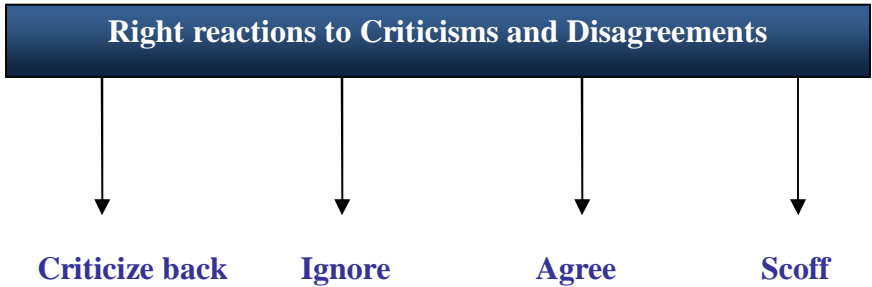
Look back at chapter seven to see that Freedom of expression is one of the natural freedoms that is given to us by God. A person can choose to commend you for something **or** that person can also choose to criticize you. Criticism is a natural part of Freedom of expression.

When someone says something to you that you do not like, it is not right to assault or attack that person. You may not like what the person says but you must learn to exercise tolerance. Remember that everyone has the freedom of opinion. A person can choose to disagree with you and to criticize you.

Criticisms can sometimes help you to change a wrong behavior or a wrong way of thinking. Everything you say and do, please remember to love your neighbours by respecting their rights. When you are criticizing, make sure that you do not tell lies about a person. Show love to him/her by speaking the truth to help.

The charts below show some of the right ways and wrong ways to react to criticisms or disagreements. Please choose the right ways always and God will be pleased with you because you will be respecting the rights of your fellowmen.

RIGHT (lawful) AND WRONG (unlawful) REACTIONS TO CRITICISMS AND DISAGREEMENTS



SONG

**Beloved, let us love one another
For love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of
God,
and knoweth God.**

**He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.
Beloved, let us love one another first John four seven
and eight**



IS THAT TRUE?

Write TRUE or FALSE in the blank space at the end of each statement, based on what you have studied in chapter ten.

1. Freedom of expression is given to us by God.

.....

2. If someone criticizes you, it is right to assault that person.

.....

3. Criticism is a part of Freedom of expression.

.....

4. Everyone does not have Freedom of opinion.

.....

5. Passing laws to stop criticism is a wrong reaction to criticism.

.....

6. Ignoring someone is a wrong reaction to criticism.

.....

7. Scoffing is a lawful reaction to criticism.

GLOSSARY

Amendment - a change, correction, or improvement to something

Capital punishment- execution as a punishment for a person convicted of committing a crime, for example, murder.

Communism- a theory advocating the elimination of private property.

Constitution - a document containing the basic laws or principles by which a country or organization is governed.

Criticize - to express disapproval of or dissatisfaction with somebody or something

Democracy- government by the people; *especially* : rule of the majority.

Endowed - to provide somebody or something with desirable qualities, abilities, or characteristics.

Fundamental - serving as an essential (or basic) part of something

Government - a group of people who have the power to make and enforce laws for a country or area.

Inalienable - not able to be separated from a person; coming from God.

Inviolable - not to be violated, sacred, unchangeable.

Lawful - permitted or recognized by law.

Legislation - the process of writing and passing laws

Liberty - the freedom to think or act without being constrained by force

Materialist— one who holds the doctrine that the only or the highest values or objectives lie in material well being and in the furtherance of material progress.

Privilege - an advantage or benefit that is not available to everyone

Republicanism- the principles or theory of republican government.

Respect - a high regard or esteem for something or someone

Responsibility - the state, fact, or position of being accountable to somebody or for something

Socialism- a system of society or group living in which there is no private property.

Subordinate - lower than somebody or something in rank or status

Supreme - greater than or superior to any other, especially above all others in power, authority, rank, status, or skill

Tolerance - to put up with things that you may not agree with

Tyrant - an absolute ruler who exercises power cruelly and unjustly

Violate- to treat something sacred with a lack of respect; to abuse, injure or infringe

Answers to quiz on pages 9 and 10

1. B 2.A 3.C 4.D 5.B 6.B 7.D



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To disrespect or tamper with man's God-given inalienable Rights and Freedoms is to blatantly disregard the Creator – The Giver of Rights and Freedoms.

We believe that education concerning the Rights of man is so desperately needed that human ideas, and thus social life, are radically deteriorating at a fast rate. What can we do to help?

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