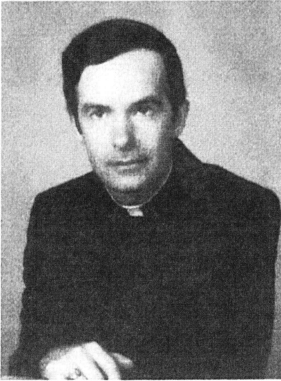


Chaplain's Corner, Hughes Camp Chaplain Richard W Rudd



In the spirit of Patrick Henry, we Americans are fond of repeating, ‘...(G)ive me liberty or give me death.’ We are convinced that the quality of life lived without freedom would be unbearably diminished. Yet, many of the fundamental factors that characterize not only our

lives, but our very essence, who we are, are not decided by freedom of choice. Our native nationality and language, social and economic status, name, biological family, race, and gender are determined before birth. While we might have the freedom and capability to affect change of many of these characteristics, some, like the last three, remain immutable in spite of our wishes.

Our Declaration of Independence states, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men...are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights...” One of these rights is liberty or freedom. Even though freedom originates with God, governments and certain special interest groups seek the enactment of legislation and the establishment of norms that either define, ensure, or impinge on our freedom. In 1972, a movie played called *The Stepford Wives*. The title became a figure of speech denoting mindless docility and submissiveness. The covert men’s club brainwashed their wives to become obedient robots in their man-made utopian city. America has been referred to as a city. Alluding to Matt. 5:14 in his vision for the future of America during his speech at the founding of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630, John Winthrop said, “For we must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill.” Liberals have organized themselves in what amounts to a sinister club that seeks to impose their design for utopia on America by brainwashing citizens with propaganda that makes them submissive and easy to control.

Liberals are now desecrating Christian and Confederate monuments to replace them with pedestals they erect for themselves as champions of tolerance and freedom. In reality, no group detests tolerance and freedom more than they do. By their actions they eviscerate and leave hollow the body of their rhetoric. . They tread down the crooked path

of their forebears who forced their will on the South, denying their fellow Americans the right to exercise freedom of association. The list of substantiating evidence is too lengthy to exhaust. Just consider, for example, the First Amendment guarantee of freedom of speech. In 1954, LBJ became infamous for engineering the abridgment of Christians’ traditional right to express within their congregations the obvious connection between the application of Christian moral values and standards and the policies of political parties and politicians without threat to their tax-exempt status. In education, notably public schools at all grade levels, especially colleges and universities, the freedom to express, discuss, and debate controversial ideas, an integral part of the learning process, is being expunged from the curriculum. An administrator at the University of Nebraska issued a warning to the student body during a convocation inaugurating this new academic year. California has sought the infringement of this right within private Christian schools. Schools are becoming institutions of indoctrination, not enlightenment, where the student is told what to think and not taught how to think.

Like educational institutions, all forms of the media exist, hypothetically, to disseminate information and increase knowledge. Knowledge increases freedom and freedom empowers. Conversely, the denial or obfuscation of information through the use of distraction, shallowness, deception, biases, half-truths and falsehoods denies awareness of options and hinders freedom of choice, rendering one powerless. Then there is the other side of the issue. Those who live in “the time of the end” are told, “Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.” (Dan. 12:4) In our day, technology is making possible the fulfillment of this prophecy. Libraries, publications, TV and radio, and the internet bombard us with information. To cope with the volume, too many people are thinking less about too much. The story about the donkey placed in equal distance

between two buckets of feed illustrates the dilemma. Unable to make a choice, he starved to death. Whether it concerns discerning the truth, choosing among political candidates, or purchasing a product, many Americans are feeling overwhelmed and paralyzed with information, much of which is superficial, unreliable, or contradictory. So, they take the path of least resistance, procrastinating or failing to choose or vote at all. Lost in the shuffle are their voice, power, and freedom.

The First Amendment also guarantees the free exercise of religion. In their own words, the Founding Fathers made clear that religion was understood to be the Judaeo-Christian faith. John Adams said, "(I)t is religion and morality alone that can establish principles upon which freedom can securely stand." He continued, "(W)e have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion... Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people." A crucial strategy employed by liberals to subvert the Constitution and disrupt the social structure of America is to foment anti-Semitism and discriminate against Christians. Some of their methods are subtle. Moral absolutes are denied in favor of using relativity and subjectivity to promote individualism, creating a false sense of freedom. The attempt is made to sever responsibility from freely chosen actions, negating the ensuing consequences. Taking responsibility for our actions requires discipline, both of which are anathemas for liberals. Freedom does not mean becoming a slave to needs and wants by doing whatever, however, whenever, wherever. On the contrary, as both athletes and academics know, self-discipline enables all of us to reach our highest potential and thereby realize true freedom as individuals and collectively as a society and nation. Social philosophy is a composite of individual philosophies of life. Whether or not we are aware of it, we all have one. The dominance of selfish and short-sighted individualism over the general wellbeing of society engenders chaos. Chaos destroys freedom.

Syncretism, deceptively misused as a synonym for tolerance and an antonym for hate, is another

subtle method employed by liberals to sabotage the Judaeo-Christian faith as the moral foundation of American society. It is the lie that all religions offer the same salvation from the same deity in spite of their blatantly obvious conflicting and irreconcilable teachings. Liberals are enthusiastic apologists for Islam because they share in common a mutual disdain for freedom. Moslems will abuse the freedom they are given to establish oppressive sharia law. Liberals will abuse the freedom they have to ostracize and inhibit the rights of those who disagree with them.

To appreciate freedom as Americans know and understand it, each generation must be instilled with a strong sense of personal conviction and not be content to rely on mere habit and tradition. Those who value freedom most do not just inherit its benefits, but invest something of themselves into its defense and preservation. Our primary mission as Americans is not financial or political, but spiritual. It is our spiritual philosophy of life that determines our beliefs, actions, and the influence we exert in the political, economic, and social fabric of America. To each generation Christ says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if one hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him..." (Rev. 3:20) The most important use each of us makes of our God-given freedom is our response to Christ's invitation and choice of where we will spend eternity. Let us pray, "Come Holy Spirit, enkindle in our hearts the fire of the Gospel message, that our lives, families, community, the church, nation, and world might freely experience the miracle of renewal and the hope of eternal life."

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