The U.S. Constitution Does Not Give Us Rights

By Van Yandell

The Constitution of the United States of America does not give us rights. Instead, it regards certain privileges/rights as being "unalienable" and common to mankind.

The Constitution prohibits the government from taking away those rights. It was written for the citizen's protection from an oppressive government.

The framers must have known that over a period of time, power hungry individuals would try to block those fundamental rights and saw it necessary to write a document that would keep that from ever happening.

Article one of the Bill of Rights states "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Article one explicitly states "Congress shall make no law." This is to keep the lawmakers from establishing a religious state or prohibiting the establishment of a religion.

Article one also gives American citizens the freedom of speech. The freedom to lie, confuse or mislead concerning the truth was apparently not foreseen by those framers.

Many in America have come to a point of mistrust of any information to which we may be exposed. Sad to say, trust in our world is on the chopping block and in many locations, the axe has fallen.

A very precious right is the right to peaceful assembly. I was working a church construction and maintenance project in Cuba in 2011. One night I met with the deacons/elders of the church.

Being in a tropical climate there were openings in the outer walls but no glass in those windows. A watchman was placed outside to be sure no government official would stand and listen to our meeting. A typical church meeting as it was, the government would not have seen it as such.

The communist government there (as in many communist countries) is constantly fearful of a rebellion/coup. Consequently group meetings are strongly discouraged and in many cases strictly prohibited.

Whereas there are several countries that have determined to be a religious state, prohibiting the presence of other religions, that is not to happen in the U.S.

If you have been in a church, local government meeting or even a motorcycle club group meeting, you may be assured; in many countries you would be breaking the law. A few countries require a permit to assemble the then those assemblies are monitored.

The second amendment is the right to bear arms. "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

One estimate is that one-third of Americans own guns with a total number of around 107 million. Those are estimated to possess up to one-trillion rounds of ammunition. If legitimate gun owners were the problem, we would know it!

Freedoms are not to be taken lightly. Many lately have been observed sitting during the National Anthem. This practice is disgraceful for anyone enjoying the freedoms that thousands of service men and women have died to protect those rights.

Being "Ungrateful" and "entitled" may be an accepted practice by some but the mothers of deceased soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen would be devastated in seeing anyone disrespecting their sons and daughters that had died to secure those rights.

Religions numbering around 4000 exist in our world. All have one thing in common. That is the opinion, "I'm right and everyone else is wrong."

That being the case, where is the evidence of reality. Christianity offers through the Holy Bible, extensive evidence. In the minds of many, enough evidence leads to proof. As a policeman friend once told me, "Follow the evidence and it will lead you to the truth."

Through prophesy and the science in the Bible, the God of the Bible verifies His existence. Containing information no human could have known when the scrolls were penned, the Bible proves itself from within itself.

Information such as dietary (Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14), modern science and nutrition has proven its correctness.

Whereas most religions are seeking a better life or an eternal life, the establishment of those religions is simply fulfilling a human need. It certainly appears people are not prepared to accept the finality of death and have created a God for comfort and peace.

That peace has been interrupted by such horrific disagreements and hostilities, religions have led to many wars and deaths.

All in all, the question we ask is, "which religion has the highest credibility?" Realizing some religions have questionable beliefs and actions, Christianity appears to be the most sustainable.

Offering believers a faith based belief in a Savior, Christianity has grown from a few believers nearly 2000 years ago to a number equaling over one-fourth of the world's population.

The United States Constitution does not give us rights; it protects those natural rights to which all mankind is entitled by our Creator. We should be thankful for those that determined and penned those rights and wrote them in such a way, if obeyed, protect us from tyranny.

The Bible teaches there is only one eternal salvation. That is by a faith based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) that Christ Jesus was crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (Romans 4: 25) and resurrected (Matthew 28: 6).

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How Parents Can Save On Every Day Expenses

A high cost of living has been a point of public and private discussion for some time. The cost of everything from housing to food to entertainment has seemingly risen dramatically in recent years, and some areas are feeling the pinch more than others. For example, the Cost of Living Index from the World Population Review indicates that Californians' cost of living is 42 percent higher than the national average, while Oklahomans' cost of living is 14 percent below the national average.



Even residents living in places with a lower-than-average cost of living are not immune to concerns about how to pay for daily expenditures like food, gasoline and utilities that in many instances have become considerably more expensive in recent years. As parents navigate the rising cost of living, they can keep these pointers in mind in an attempt to save money on daily expenses.

· Bundle entertainment-related expenses. A 2025 report in Adwave noted that the cable television penetration rate dropped from 88 percent in 2010 to 35 percent in 2025. By 2025, 77 million households had already cut the cord with cable TV. While families may have cut costs to reduce what they spent to watch their favorite shows, the explosion of television streaming platforms, which now number more than 200 across the globe, has made it possible that some families are spending even more on TV now than they were when they had cable years ago. Parents paying for multiple streaming subscriptions each month may be able to cut back on that spending by bundling subscriptions. If bundling isn't possible, look for deals through mobile service providers, or consider canceling subscriptions to seldom-used platforms.

· Make a list before going to the grocery store. Shoppers know how easy it can be to make impulse buys when visiting a modern grocery store with dozens of displays and as many as 20 aisles of merchandise. Without a shopping list in hand, it can be easy to succumb to temptation and spend more at the store. Parents can make a list prior to leaving for the grocery store and only purchase the items that make the cut. Over time, making a list and sticking to it could save parents a considerable amount of money.

· Make use of cash back offers. Some credit cards feature cash back offers where users earn cash back on all purchases. (Note: Some cards limit cash back to certain categories, such as gas.) Even a cash back offer of 2 percent can save parents a considerable amount of money over time, but only if cardholders pay the balances in full before interest accrues each month. A 2 percent cash back card used to make $10,000 worth of purchases can earn cardholders $200 in cash back rewards.

· Be more efficient when driving. Gas is a big monthly expense for families. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Expenditure Survey, the average driver spent $201 per month on gasoline in 2024, the most recent year with full consumer spending data. Families might spend even more driving kids to and from practices, games, dance recitals, birthday parties, and other activities. Parents may be able to reduce their gasoline consumption by resolving to be more efficient when doing things like running errands. The fewer short trips drivers make, the more efficiently their vehicles consume fuel.

Cost of living is a burden for many families. But parents can implement various strategies to cut back on daily expenses.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The City of Clay is accepting sealed bids for the following municipal projects:

1. **Roofing Project** – Furnish all labor, materials, equipment, and necessary services for the repair and/or replacement of roofing on a municipal building.
2. **Lean-To Project** – Furnish all labor, materials, equipment, and necessary services for the construction of a lean-to structure.
3. **Building Project** – Furnish all labor, materials, equipment, and necessary services for the construction of a municipal building.

Contractors may submit bids on one, two, or all three projects. Each project should be priced separately.

Bid specifications may be obtained at the Municipal office, during regular business hours.

Sealed bids must be received by **4 pm** on **December 8, 2026.** Bids will be opened at the scheduled Council meeting.

The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities, and to accept the bid determined to be in the best interest of the City. 12/2c

Webster County Jailer's Report

Webster County Jailer Greg Sauls reports inmates worked a total of 1576 hours between November 8 and November 14, 2026. Hours worked include 168 hours for the Detention Center; 728 hours for the RCC; 64 hours mowing; 200 hours of male Union County crew and 160 hours female UC crew; 40 hours for the city of Clay; 24 hours for the city of Dixon 80 hours for the city of Sebree; 40 hours recycling; 32 hours road department shop; 40 hours for the dog warden.

The total jail population is 173 with 39 county inmates; 29 Union County inmates and 105 state prisoners.

Department of Correction programs attendance includes 26 inmates attending Moral Recognition Therapy with two graduates; 21 attending Anger Management with two graduates; 20 attending Thinking for Good with one graduate; and 19 attending Untangling Relationships with one graduate. Five inmates attended GED classes.

Incarcerated during the same period were

Farah Ali
Farah Ali
Jacob Anderson
Ricky Carger
Keisha Cobb
Robert Tlager
Bobby Kemble
Dillon Long
Steven Long
William Lucas
Melanie Mullins
Ronnie Poe
Keith Posey
Morris Rhea
Kristen Smith