



UNLOCKING
THE
FEDERALIST PAPERS

Discussion Guide

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10 Religious Freedom in the *Federalist Papers*

*The Security for Civil
Rights Must Be the Same as
That for Religious Rights*

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

VIEW THE VIDEO

Thoughtfully view the video which can be found at <http://www.RootsofLiberty.org/videos>.

ANALYZE THE SOURCE

Closely read the following excerpt from *Federalist No.55* (written by James Madison) and be prepared to discuss the questions that follow:

As there is a degree of depravity in mankind which requires a certain degree of circumspection and distrust, so there are other qualities in human nature which justify a certain portion of esteem and confidence. Republican government presupposes the existence of these qualities in a higher degree than any other form.

Were the pictures which have been drawn by the political jealousy of some among us, faithful likenesses of the human character, the inference would be, there is not sufficient virtue among men for self-government; and that nothing less than the chains of despotism can restrain them from destroying and devouring one another.

1. What are some examples of human “depravity” that Madison is concerned about?
2. What are other human qualities that justify “esteem and confidence”?
3. Why are these positive qualities so essential to a successful republican government?
4. Madison implies that there is sufficient virtue among people for self-government. In your opinion, what are the most essential virtues (or values) for citizens of a republic? for the leaders of a republic?
5. What individuals or institutions can best foster and promote these values?
6. Madison disagrees with those who suggested that “nothing less” than despotism can restrain individuals from “destroying and devouring one another.” What is the alternative?

EXPLORE THE ESSAY

Thoughtfully read the essay, *The Security for Civil Rights Must Be the Same as That for Religious Rights: Religious Freedom in the Federalist Papers*, and be prepared to discuss the following questions:

1. What aspect of religious liberty was agreed upon by most people in late 18th century America? What aspects were “negotiable?”
2. How did *Madison’s Memorial and Remonstrance* and Jefferson’s *Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom* help to protect religious liberty from actions by state governments?
3. Why did the Framers think that protection of religious liberty was not necessary in the new Constitution? Did that position make sense in 1789? Does it make sense today?
4. Explain the significance of Article VI, Section 3. Why is this section of the Constitution not discussed in the *Federalist Papers*? *Should* it have been discussed?
5. How do contemporary views about religious diversity differ from those of the Framers? With whom do you agree?
6. According to Madison and Hamilton, why did the Constitution not require a bill of rights to protect American liberties? Do you agree with them?
7. What is the most important goal of the Constitution? How is this goal related to the preservation of religious liberty?
8. According to Madison, why and how will the “extended republic” of the United States protect religious liberty?
9. How do morality, religion, and political institutions support both constitutional order and individual liberty?

CONNECT TO CURRENT ISSUES

Research one of the current controversial issues listed below to determine to what degree religious liberty is either supported or restricted.

- ▶ mandating that companies pay for employee insurance programs which provide services that violate the employer’s religious beliefs
- ▶ requiring/forbidding membership in campus organizations based on religious beliefs
- ▶ requiring the Pledge of Allegiance be recited in schools
- ▶ posting the Ten Commandments in public spaces
- ▶ holding high school graduations in church or temple auditoriums



SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

Write a thoughtful, analytical essay answering any one of the questions from **Analyze the Source** or **Explore the Essay**.

Research the debates of the various state ratification conventions and find out what concerns the delegates raised about Article VI, Section 3. Present your results in a Powerpoint presentation.



LEARN MORE

The *Federalist Papers* referenced in this article are also discussed by these other authors in *Roots of Liberty*:

No. 1	Miller, Koster	No. 47	Shu (Federalism)
No. 10	Miller, Presser, Koster	No. 51	Shu (Federalism), Miller, Presser
No. 23	Pilon	No. 84	Presser

On-Line Versions of the *Federalist Papers*

- ▶ The Avalon Project: Documents in Law, History and Diplomacy
<http://avalon.law.yale.edu>
- ▶ On Line Library of Liberty
<http://oll.libertyfund.org>

Teaching American History: The Federalist–Anti-Federalists Debates

- ▶ <http://teachingamericanhistory.org/fed-antifed>