

2024-03-05 - John Adams - Letter June 28, 1813 (cont'd)

## **Prayer**

**Bible** - Romans 13:7-10

## **Quiz**

1. In what century was John Adams born? 18th
2. In what century did John Adams die? 19th
3. At what college did John Adams study? Harvard
4. What was John Adams' wife's name? Abigail
5. Was John Adams the most important figure in passing the Declaration of Independence or the Articles of Confederation or the U.S. Constitution? Declaration of Independence

## **Recitation**

**Excerpt to Memorize** - John Adams 1813

**President** - John Adams (1735-1826)

**Text** - Letter to Thomas Jefferson - June 28, 1813

## Understanding the Letter

“general Principles of Christianity” - What must Adams have meant by this?

Matthew 5:21-22 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: 22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

Matthew 5:27-28 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: 28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Matthew 5:43-44 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Matthew 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

Romans 13:7-10 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour. 8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. 9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

“those general Principles of Christianity, are as eternal and immutable, as the Existence and Attributes of God”

-the being of God is eternal and immutable, so also His attributes

Romans 1:19-20 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

-there are general principles of right and wrong that cannot change because God does not change

Matthew 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

“general Principles of English and American Liberty”

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.

“those Principles of Liberty, are as unalterable as human Nature and our terrestrial, mundane System”

- human nature is unalterable
- our terrestrial, mundane system is unalterable

“In favour of these general Principles in Phylosophy, Religion and Government, I could fill Sheets of quotations from Frederick of Prussia, from Hume, Gibbon, Bolingbroke, Reausseau and Voltaire; as well as Newton and Locke: not to mention thousands of Divines and Philosophers of inferiour Fame”

“The Arts and Sciences, in general, during the three or four last centuries, have had a regular course of progressive improvement. The Inventions in Mechanic Arts, the discoveries in natural Philosophy, navigation and commerce, and the Advancement of civilization and humanity, have occasioned Changes in the condition of the World and the human Character, which would have astonished the most refined Nations of Antiquity.”

“...the most industrious and impartial Researches, the longest liver of you all, will find no Principles, Institutions, or Systems of Education, more fit, in general to be transmitted to your Posterity, than those you have received from your Ancestors.”

## **Quotes and Allusions**

Are there any identifiable Bible references?

...for a greater Character than Priestley or Godwin has Said, "Be ye perfect &c."

Matthew 5:48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

## **Consistency or Inconsistency with Deism**

Is this letter from John Adams consistent with deism? No.

...for a greater Character than Priestley or Godwin has Said, "Be ye perfect &c."

**Excerpt to Memorize** - no new one this week

**Grammar Notes**

<https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/03-06-02-0208>