

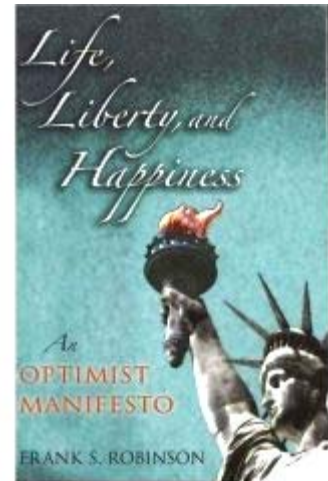
#272 The Cross of Jesus Christ vs. the Rights of Man – The false doctrine of Natural Birthrights to Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness

The United States Declaration of Independence reads in part:

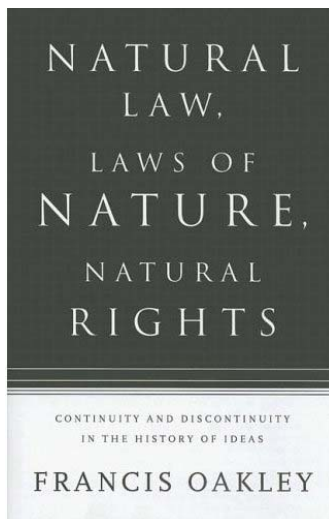
We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that **they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights** [and thus “God-given Unalienable Rights”], **that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.**

[Note: The capitalization of certain words, such as *Rights*, is how they appear in the original Declaration of Independence.]

The word *Rights* is actually a shortened version of *natural birthrights*

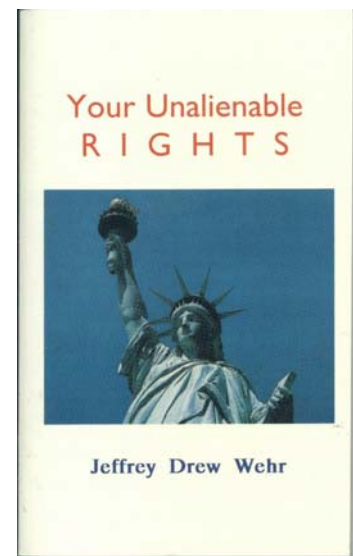


The word *Rights* in the Declaration of Independence (as shown *above*) is actually a shortened version of the phrase ‘*natural birthrights*.’ In other words, the philosophical doctrine of *natural rights* means that the Declaration of Independence could actually read . . . **they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable *natural birthrights*** [and thus “God-given Unalienable *natural birthrights*”], **that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.**



Key Understanding: *The false doctrine of natural birthrights.* The doctrine that all men have a *natural birthright* to Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness – simply because they are born as human beings – cannot be found in the Bible. Scripture tells us that “*in Adam all die*” (1 Corinthians 15:22). At our natural birth, we are “*sown in corruption*” and “*sown in weakness*” (1 Corinthians 15:42-43). In fact, it is that very corruption and weakness that makes us erroneously believe that we should seek “unalienable rights” to Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

The truth is that God created man with a free moral agency to either (1) pursue one’s Life, Liberty, and Happiness, or (2) “*deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow*” Jesus Christ (Mark 8:34). Indeed, because of what occurred at the Fall, the Lord allows man the “right” to seek Life, Liberty, and Happiness, but the exercising of that so-called *natural birthright* is what leads to eternal death.



1 Corinthians 2:12-14 (KJV) NOW WE HAVE RECEIVED, NOT THE SPIRIT OF THE WORLD, BUT THE SPIRIT WHICH IS OF GOD; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

*14 But **THE NATURAL MAN RECEIVETH NOT THE THINGS OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD**: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

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