

Have you ever given a promise? What did that promise mean to you? Promises are a declaration or assurance that someone will do a particular thing, or that a particular thing will happen. How should we define the promises of the U.S. Constitution? When promises are made in the constitution, they should be taken not as an empty political ritual, but as a constitutional oath, which commands much more than the average promise. The Preamble itself serves as a foundational statement of our country's values and aspirations. In the case of the United States, the opening words "We the People" signify a commitment to democratic principles and collective responsibility. Within this preamble, several promises are made, each carrying significance.

"We the People of the United States of America, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity." Most, if not all, of the promises encompassed in the preamble are displayed in the Bill of Rights under the premise of Individual rights.

In my opinion, individual rights are undeniably the most critical elements promised within the preamble. These rights form the cornerstone of a just and free society. By safeguarding our individual liberties, the preamble, along with the Bill of Rights ensures that citizens are shielded from government overreach and tyranny. Individual rights are the base upon which a democratic society stands, fostering diversity of thought and the ability to challenge the status quo. Without these rights there can be no true democracy, and potential for abuse of power becomes all too real. The Preamble serves as a constant reminder that the government derives its power

from the people, and it should be the duty of the state to protect the inherent and unalienable rights of its citizens above all else.

While the promise of securing the blessings of Liberty to ourselves is enclosed in our individual rights, the promise of securing the blessings of Liberty to our posterity is something just as, if not more, important. Securing the blessings of liberty to our posterity reflects a commitment to preserving the fundamental rights and values for generations to come. Liberty, which includes our freedom of speech, religion, and expression, provides the baseline for a thriving and just civilization. By preserving these liberties, we are ensuring that the future generations inherit a world where their individual rights and autonomy are respected and can cultivate innovation, equality, and the pursuit of happiness. The promise of liberty to our posterity represents a timeless aspiration to create a better future, one where the torch of our freedom is passed on, illuminating a path toward a more equitable and inclusive society.

Imagine for just a moment. Imagine that this torch of freedom doesn't exist. That we live in a society in which these promises of the Preamble are not promises, but something we must live without. Imagine that instead of our birthright as U.S. citizens, these promises are things we have to stand up for, to risk our lives for. Imagine a life without the promise of domestic tranquility, secure justice, or general welfare. What would happen? The emotional duress of chaos would fall upon the population with no clear solution. "Justice for all" would turn into justice for none, and the "general welfare" of our nation would be lacking its health, peace, morality, and safety. Our freedom is protected by the principles of the preamble, and they should not be taken for granted.

All the promises outlined in the preamble of our Constitution hold immense importance. The promises listed under our individual rights and those securing the blessings of liberty to our posterity resonate the most with me. The promises of the preamble are the basis by which our constitution was written, and by embracing these ideals, we not only honor them, but also ensure a brighter future for all. As a citizen of the United States of America, I have become familiar with my freedom. With the liberties promised to me by the preamble. After accepting and appreciating this freedom, I now understand how different my life would be without the liberties I've become so accustomed to. Consequently, I want to use my freedom to serve others less fortunate than me in my community, state, country, and world. How can I serve those who have been less fortunate than me, those whose freedom is not their birthright, but something they have to fight for? Using the principles of the Preamble as my guide, the answer to this question is something I will strive to find an answer to.