

The Importance of the Constitution

By Kendra Wolf

The United States of America is built on the foundation of the constitution. The constitution protects our freedoms and our rights, giving the people freedoms and liberties no other country has. The constitution gives people freedom and does not have to worry about a corrupt government taking over the land. For example, we have the right to say whatever we want whether it is for good or bad. We can have our own opinion and not worry about being thrown in jail or persecuted by the government for it. The same is true for religion: we can worship our Savior freely and help others to see the light as well.

In 1787, the Congress of the Confederation published the constitution in hopes to make a stronger country and a phenomenal community. Not only did they want to make a free country, but they wanted the people to have a say in the government and laws. The first words in the constitution state "We the people". These words are the most important in the constitution. Why? These words mean that the government cannot just institute laws without we the people having a say in them too. An example of this is the 27th amendment. This states that the government cannot raise taxes whenever they think they need a raise in their paycheck without voters having a chance to vote them out before they get their raise. However, this amendment was not made by the government but by a college student named Gregory Watson. Gregory Watson was doing a paper on the government and he just so happened to choose the constitution. He did endless hours of research and when his paper was finally done, he turned it in and got a C. He was outraged by this and spent the next 10 years of his life researching the constitution. After a long 10 years, he turned to James Maddison for his final report. James was astonished by his wonderful work and, in the end, helped pass the law which we now call the 27th amendment.

Another great amendment is the 2nd amendment, the right to bear arms. The 2nd amendment gives the people the possibility to rise up against their government if it gets too tyrannical. This amendment is the ultimate check on the government's power. There are other by-products of this amendment that we can enjoy. For example, protecting ourselves in our own homes. There are also fun sports we can enjoy such as hunting and recreational shooting. Some people would strongly disagree with this amendment but it is still one of the US's many freedoms. The right to bear arms gives us the ability to own guns freely. However the 2nd amendment carries a heavy responsibility that not everyone is willing to carry.

A 3rd phenomenal amendment is the freedom of religion (the 1st amendment). The Freedom of religion is to me one of the most important amendments. It ensures we can worship whatever god we please without fear of being persecuted. In some places (for example North Korea, India, Iran, ex.) you may not worship Jesus Christ without fear that if you are found you might be sent to prison or even killed. Under our constitution, you may have your own beliefs instead without the government interfering and pressuring you to participate in something in which you do not believe. Because of this, America is much stronger, the people don't need to fear the government and instead can work with them to help make them stronger and wiser. This system makes our country more united and helps ensure a safe place for everyone.

Finally, one of the most important amendments is the 13th Amendment. This amendment protects people from the tragedy of being enslaved. This amendment was adopted directly after the Civil War which was fought over whether slavery should be allowed or not. Half of our country wanted slaves to do labor for them while the other half thought that it was just cruel and inhumane. Some of the population wanted slaves to take care of their plants such as tobacco because tobacco was terribly difficult to tend to. So, instead of doing that hard work themselves, they enslaved innocent people to do their job for them. The other half, not needing to tend to their tobacco, thought slavery was horrible and very inhumane. At the end of all this fighting, slaves were no longer allowed in any of the states. After the Civil War was finished, the 13th amendment was adopted so that no one could persecute slaves any longer and now if they wanted someone to do their labor they would have to pay for their service. I believe that this is one of the most important Amendments since I don't think that it is anywhere near humane to be able to treat people like property rather than humans.

Although our country is not perfect, we can still be grateful for the protection of the constitution. There are many more properties of the constitution that I have not covered, but I have covered the ones that are most important to me. They not only give us freedom but, they protect us from a corruptible government. In many other countries they do not have the luxuries that we do here in the USA. We can be very grateful for the opportunity we have to live in a free country without a corrupt government. We can say what we want, and believe what we want. And greater yet, we can have a say in how we live our lives. Without the constitution, we would not have these luxuries or freedoms and we could be just as corrupt as other countries. I am very grateful for the opportunity to live in the USA, have a say in our government and not live in fear for the rest of my days. No one is perfect but, with the constitution we can make our country a little bit closer to perfection.