

Liberty is a value which was once cherished in this nation. Over the years many Americans have come to despise it. I am certain everyone will claim that they are not such an individual. However, is that really true?

A critical part of Liberty is that everyone takes personal responsibility for their actions. Responsibility is something that should be celebrated in our society. Once we could accept Theodore Roosevelt's description of Americans as rugged individualists. I do not think that would fit much today. Everyone gets some bonus from the government which makes them dependent, which is not Liberty in any sense of the word. In fact, most want the government to take even more of their hard earned money.

For example, they demand Universal Health Care. These same Americans eat junk, have horrible habits and seldom exercise. That lack of proper maintenance leads to hundreds of ailments that could be avoided. I am not perfect myself, but have chosen to take my health as my responsibility and mine alone. No doctor will be able to cure me for the state of medicine today can treat symptoms, but will rarely provide a cure. The solution to health care woes is not to have everyone taxed heavily and remit those funds to doctors and Big Pharma. That will only reinforce the mentality that good health comes by prescription only. That is a fallacy which until rejected will continue to have people declare themselves victims to disease and not the co-conspirators they are.

Another case where people reject Liberty is when they desire to force others to pay for their whims. The Trolley to Nowhere is the best example of this mentality. What percentage of Kenosha's citizens use what is claimed to be a mass transit rail line each day to get to work? Yet, every citizen paid for it. Let's be honest, it's a toy! Hundreds of millions of Americans paid for it, too. The money taken to pay for that trolley was not available to the people to do the things they may have wanted to do for themselves. Every dollar removed from you, is a dollar that cannot be used to live your life. It is theft and a direct assault against Liberty.

America and Americans are swimming in debt. That debt becomes a ball and chain which limits future growth. If, everyone could keep more of their money, they may not need to borrow so much. Without the Federal government wasteful spending our children would not be saddled with 50-60 trillion dollars of debt. What moral stand can be made for taking money from the unborn several generations out from now? Are we being responsible as a nation to those who follow us? Fixing the mess we made will be hard, but it is our responsibility to do so. To claim that is not our fault is a cop out. It shows how little we honor our responsibility to ourselves, our children and the very civilization we claim to adore on Independence Day. If, Universal Health Care comes to pass, we can expect that Tax Freedom Day will be pushed beyond the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. Is it a tribute to Liberty to work more than half of the year for the government?

I cannot say it enough, personal responsibility is the flip side of Liberty. When you fail to take care of your own life and demand the rest of the community must help you by the force of the government, you have declared yourself incompetent. You admit you are without Liberty. We should not fool ourselves to believe we are a truly free society. We have strayed far from the ideals of our founders. We can have our Liberty back by taking back the responsibility for our lives from the government.

Do not be afraid of responsibility, it is the mark of a free individual. It is not selfish to want to sustain yourself before you take the responsibility of taking care of others in the community. Even airlines conclude that parents should get oxygen for themselves before helping their children. How can you help others, if you fail to provide for yourself?

