



PE + PLUS PATRONS

Happy President's Day on Monday February 17th. This week in observance of this holiday we will discuss a few thoughts of some of our godly presidents. I have copied such memorable excerpts from "Great American Statesmen and Heroes" by Catherine Millard.

2/17/03

George Washington as a Boy

At the age of 15, this exceptional young man copied in meticulous handwriting the "110 Rules of Civility and Decent Behaviour in Company and Conversation."¹ These maxims were so fully lived out in George Washington's life that historians have regarded them as important influences in forming his character.

Here are some of these rules. They fall into several categories, beginning with the basics of personal grooming and advancing to the inner life of a well-rounded individual.

I Personal Grooming

- 5) If you cough, sneeze, sigh or yawn, do it not loud but privately; and speak not in your yawning, but put your handkerchief or hand before your face and turn aside.
- 15) Keep your nails clean and short, also your hands and teeth clean yet without showing any great concern for them.

II Manners in Interaction with Others

- 6) Sleep not when others speak, sit not when others stand, speak not when you should hold your peace, walk not on when others stop.
- 14) Turn not your back to others especially in speaking, jog not the table or desk on which another reads or writes, lean not upon anyone.

III Consideration and Concern for Others

- 18) Read no letters, books, or papers in company but when there is a necessity for the doing of it you must ask leave.
- 19) Let your countenance be pleasant but in serious matters somewhat grave.

IV Moral Behavior

- 22) Shew not yourself glad at the misfortune of another though he were your enemy.
- 109) Let your recreations be manfull not sinfull.

V Spiritual Life

- 108) When you speak of God, or His attributes, let it be seriously and with reverence. Honor and obey your natural parents although they be poor.

- 110) Labour to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience.

Jefferson's Life Governed by Many Christian Principles and Values

A letter to Thomas Jefferson Smith, advising this young man on the course of life:

*Adore God. Reverence and cherish your parents. Love your neighbor as yourself and your country more than yourself. Be just. Be true. Murmur not at the ways of Providence. So shall the life, into which you have entered, be the portal to one of eternal and ineffable bliss...*¹²

John Adams' Inaugural Address Glorifies God

Adams served as the second president of the United States from 1797-1801. His inaugural address acknowledged his need for God in this difficult task:

...I shall need, too, the favor of that Being in whose hands we are, who led our fathers, as Israel of old, from their native land and planted them in a country flowing with all the necessities and comforts of life, and who has covered our infancy with His providence and our ripe years with His wisdom and power.¹⁷

John Adams' Prayer for Those who Would Dwell in the White House

The night after his arrival in the White House, he wrote to his wife, Abigail, expressing his prayer for all who would dwell in the White House in years to come. Many years later, it was inscribed upon the mantel of the White House State Dining Room, reading thus:

I pray Heaven to bestow *THE BEST OF BLESSINGS ON THIS HOUSE* and All that shall hereafter Inhabit it, May none but Honest and Wise Men ever rule under This Roof.

Lincoln's Mother's Only Book—the Bible

Nancy Hanks' only book had been the Bible, from which Lincoln was taught and nurtured each day. She taught him to base his entire education upon the contents of that book. At his mother's untimely death when the boy was 10 years old, Lincoln knew much of the Word of God almost by heart. Many years later, as president of the United States, Lincoln is quoted as having said: "All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother. Blessings on her memory!"¹²

Young Lincoln Devours Good Books, Especially the Bible

In 1819, Lincoln's father married Sarah Johnston of Kentucky. She brought cheer and kindness into the family, encouraging Abraham in his love for reading, which his father considered idleness. Lincoln had less than a year of formal school attendance, but learned to read, and write and "cipher the rule of three," nonetheless. He devoured books, beginning with the Bible. He worked at home, on neighboring farms, and became a clerk at Gentry's Store.³

