

Natural Law

The Founding Fathers looked to Cicero and other ancient Greek and Roman political theorists to posit five tenets of **Natural Law**. These tenets were used in writing America's *Founding Documents*, and they became the basis upon which all other American laws would be written. These five tenets are summarized by American author and political theorist W. Cleon Skousen in his 1981 classic book *The Five Thousand Year Leap*:

1. There exists a Creator who made all things, and mankind should recognize and worship Him.
2. The Creator has revealed *a moral code of behavior* for happy living which distinguishes right from wrong.
3. The Creator holds mankind responsible for the way they treat each other.
4. All mankind live beyond this life.
5. In the next life mankind are judged for their conduct in this one.

Now the question is what "moral code" is held *in common* (e.g. Natural Law) with all rational people, regardless of their religion? Benjamin Franklin, consistent with his personal belief in Natural Law, wrote to Ezra Stiles, President of Yale University, and articulated the moral code of Natural Law (***emphasis mine***):

"Here is my creed: I believe in one God, the Creator of the universe. That He governs it by His providence. That He ought to be worshipped. ***That the most acceptable service we render to Him is in doing good to His other children.*** That the soul of man is immortal, and will be treated with justice in another life respecting its conduct in this. These I take to be the fundamental points in all sound religion." (Source: Albert Henry Smyth, ed., *The Writings of Benjamin Franklin*, 10 vols., The Macmillan Company, New York, 1905-1907, 10:84)

Franklin's creed is a summary of how a person behaves under Natural Law. It is a lifestyle held in common with all true Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Taoists, Christians and everyone else involved in "sound religion."

Cicero defined **Natural Law** as:

"...right reason in agreement with nature; it is of universal application, unchanging and everlasting, it summons to duty by its commands, and averts from wrongdoing by its prohibitions...It is a sin to try to alter this law, nor is it allowable to repeal any part of it, and it is impossible to abolish it entirely. We cannot be freed from its obligations by senate or people, and we need not look outside ourselves for an expounder or interpreter of it. And there will not be different laws at Rome and Athens, or different laws now and in the future, but one eternal and unchangeable law will be valid for all nations and all times, and there will be one master and ruler, that is God, over us all, for He is the author of this law, its promulgator, and its enforcing judge. ***Whoever is disobedient is fleeing from himself and denying his human nature, and by reason of this very fact will suffer the worst punishment.***"

When sharing the Gospel it isn't necessary for a person to be familiar with the Law of the Old Covenant, for there is an innate sense in every man that he is fleeing from God and denying his own personhood.