

## Why It is so Important to Remain as *One Nation Under God*

by [Marnie Freeman](#)



There's a great deal of controversy recently regarding whether or not it is constitutional for school children to say the Pledge of Allegiance with the phrase *One Nation Under God*. It was in response to this that I painted the painting you see [here](#). One California atheist has fought all the way to the Supreme Court and back to remove the phrase and has won several legal victories along the way. Most recently, a federal judge agreed and has promised to ban the Pledge from a number of school districts, setting the stage for the Supreme Court to ultimately decide as to whether or not we can teach our children to say the Pledge of Allegiance. This is outrageous for two primary reasons.

**First, our nation was founded by men and women who clearly believed that God and religion played an important role in society and government. Beginning with the first arrivals in the New World, our continent was settled by men and women of faith, seeking religious freedom in many cases.** As just one of numerous examples, the Mayflower Compact – begins with the phrase, *"In the name of God. Amen."*

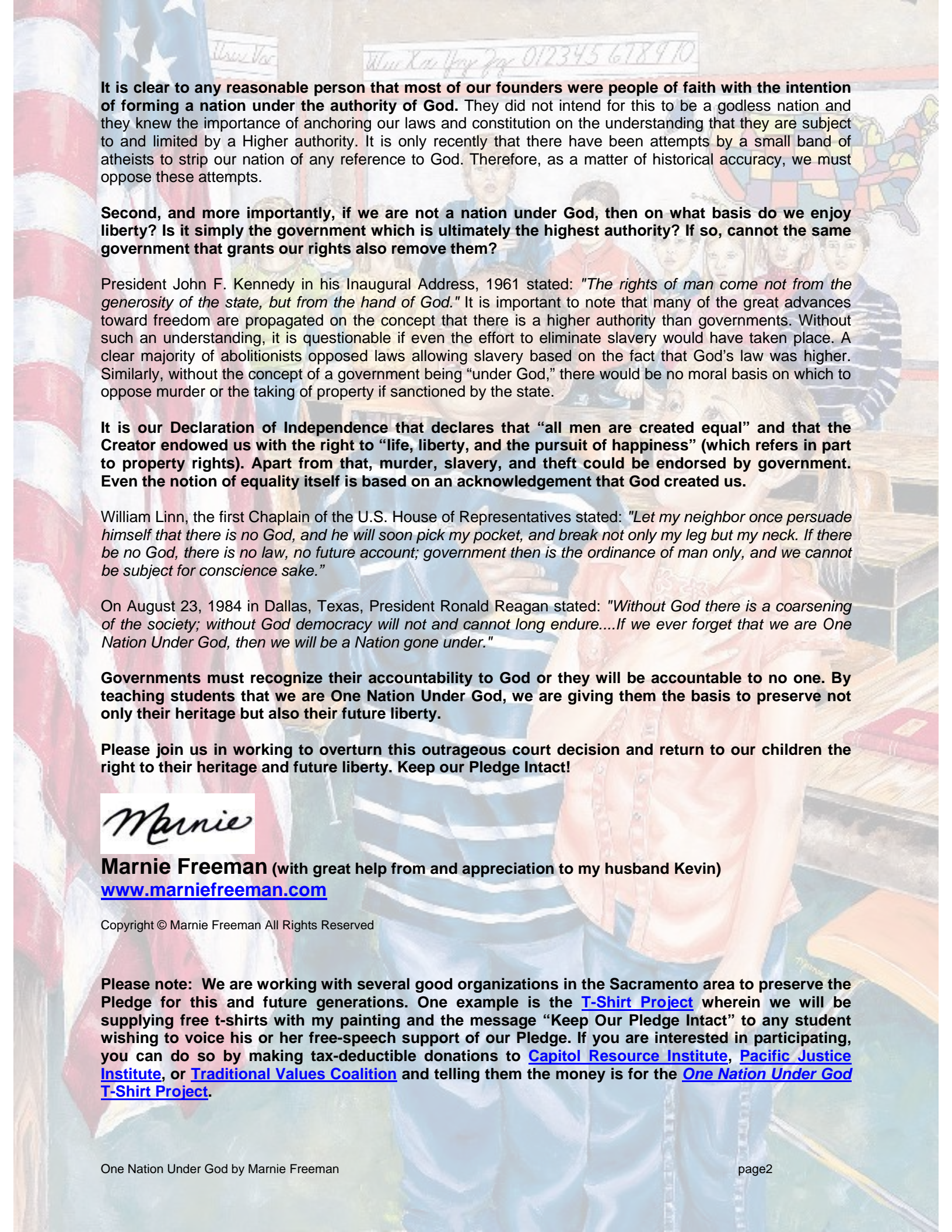
According to scholar, Dr. Peter Marshall, *"The Constitution of the United States has a path of descent that you can trace directly back to Puritan New England. This constitutional bloodline is most prominent in the 1639 Fundamental Orders of Connecticut. The first complete constitution written on American soil, this document was heavily influenced by a sermon from Puritan minister, Rev. Thomas Hooker. George Washington, who served as president of the Constitutional Convention, ordered that every delegate have a copy of Connecticut's Constitution because it was so powerfully done, so rooted in Holy Scripture."*

Clearly, the Declaration of Independence itself acknowledges God as Creator when it states: *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."* At a Federal level, both our nation's Declaration and Constitution are rooted in the understanding that we are One Nation Under God.

Dr. D. James Kennedy in a recent television special titled *One Nation Under God* commented, *"Our own U.S. Supreme Court weighed in on the question of our founding in 1892. They conducted an exhaustive examination of America's founding documents – from Ferdinand and Isabella's commission to Christopher Columbus to colonial charters to state constitutions to the U.S. Constitution itself. They also looked at the nature of American life, 'its business, its customs, and its society.' Their conclusion? 'These and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a Christian nation.'"*

Nathan Tabor found that 40 of 50 state constitutions *"started out with an acknowledgment that the people of those states were 'grateful to Almighty God,' or words to that effect . . . One of the best examples is the state of Pennsylvania, where both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were created and signed. The Preamble to the state constitution of Pennsylvania (1776), declares that 'We, the people of Pennsylvania, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of civil and religious liberty, and humbly invoking His guidance,' thereby established their government. The language varies slightly from state to state, but the fundamental idea is the same. The people of each state, in setting up their new state governments, acknowledged both their gratitude to God as the source of their liberties, and their dependence upon His future guidance."* Even in the other 10 states, Mr. Tabor found references to God in founding documents. Not in a single case did he find any language hostile to acknowledging God's authority over the state.

**While relatively unknown today, history shows that our nation's Capitol building housed various churches and worship services from 1801 to 1876, attended by Presidents and other elected leaders including Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln.** *[This will be the subject of my new painting series to be titled Church in the Capitol.]* It was only viewed as natural for governments to acknowledge God. Interestingly, it was at those services that the first black man was allowed to speak publicly in Congress as well as the first woman. Both were preaching at Sunday worship services.



**It is clear to any reasonable person that most of our founders were people of faith with the intention of forming a nation under the authority of God.** They did not intend for this to be a godless nation and they knew the importance of anchoring our laws and constitution on the understanding that they are subject to and limited by a Higher authority. It is only recently that there have been attempts by a small band of atheists to strip our nation of any reference to God. Therefore, as a matter of historical accuracy, we must oppose these attempts.

**Second, and more importantly, if we are not a nation under God, then on what basis do we enjoy liberty? Is it simply the government which is ultimately the highest authority? If so, cannot the same government that grants our rights also remove them?**

President John F. Kennedy in his Inaugural Address, 1961 stated: *"The rights of man come not from the generosity of the state, but from the hand of God."* It is important to note that many of the great advances toward freedom are propagated on the concept that there is a higher authority than governments. Without such an understanding, it is questionable if even the effort to eliminate slavery would have taken place. A clear majority of abolitionists opposed laws allowing slavery based on the fact that God's law was higher. Similarly, without the concept of a government being "under God," there would be no moral basis on which to oppose murder or the taking of property if sanctioned by the state.

**It is our Declaration of Independence that declares that "all men are created equal" and that the Creator endowed us with the right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" (which refers in part to property rights). Apart from that, murder, slavery, and theft could be endorsed by government. Even the notion of equality itself is based on an acknowledgement that God created us.**

William Linn, the first Chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives stated: *"Let my neighbor once persuade himself that there is no God, and he will soon pick my pocket, and break not only my leg but my neck. If there be no God, there is no law, no future account; government then is the ordinance of man only, and we cannot be subject for conscience sake."*

On August 23, 1984 in Dallas, Texas, President Ronald Reagan stated: *"Without God there is a coarsening of the society; without God democracy will not and cannot long endure....If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a Nation gone under."*

**Governments must recognize their accountability to God or they will be accountable to no one. By teaching students that we are One Nation Under God, we are giving them the basis to preserve not only their heritage but also their future liberty.**

**Please join us in working to overturn this outrageous court decision and return to our children the right to their heritage and future liberty. Keep our Pledge Intact!**



**Marnie Freeman (with great help from and appreciation to my husband Kevin)**

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**Please note: We are working with several good organizations in the Sacramento area to preserve the Pledge for this and future generations. One example is the [T-Shirt Project](#) wherein we will be supplying free t-shirts with my painting and the message "Keep Our Pledge Intact" to any student wishing to voice his or her free-speech support of our Pledge. If you are interested in participating, you can do so by making tax-deductible donations to [Capitol Resource Institute](#), [Pacific Justice Institute](#), or [Traditional Values Coalition](#) and telling them the money is for the [One Nation Under God T-Shirt Project](#).**