

Ten Master Principles for sustainable freedom and prosperity

1. Transcendent Values:

The recognition of primary, fundamental and widely adhered to ideas and beliefs that define, limit or interpret all lesser values and which serve to create unity for a group of people and guide their behavior. Examples: Christ's definition of "the Greatest Commandment"; the Ten Commandments; the U.S. Constitution; the Hippocratic Oath for medical professionals; the Code of Conduct of the U.S. Military.

2. Self – Government:

The internalization of laws, requirements, disciplines, beliefs and values such that one enforces within him/herself obedience to those standards of conduct. Examples: internal will or discipline v. external force; New Testament internal obedience from a "new heart or new spirit" v. Old Testament commandments; internal compulsion v. external force; people acting on their own v. coercion.

3. Service-Based Power:

Service-based power is the use of both authority and power to enhance the value, skill-sets, resource-base and capacities of those under the authority of a person or organization. Christ Himself is exhibit "A" of one embodying and exercising this unique use of power (Philippians 2:3-11). It is the deliberate use of authority and it's associated power to serve those under the authority to help people help themselves to act in compliance with the group's values rather than just use authority and power to force compliance.

4. Nuclear Family:

The organized and structured relationships of blood-line natural families (or adoptions) whose primary functions are the reproduction and raising of children within their structure, including the entire process of provision, protection, training and character development. Healthy nuclear families lay the foundation for relational healthy children and adults, self-government, self-provision and assimilation into the wider elements of culture (i.e. schools, organizations, employment, citizenry, etc.)

5. Jurisdictional Government:

The five different forms of human government described in the Bible to govern society. These five different governmental forms are inter-related, have clearly established boundaries, and were created to maximize efficiencies (the division-of-labor), minimize the abuse of power (the separation of governmental powers); create specific responsibilities and function; and allow diversities of gifts/talents and influence to shape both individuals and society at large. The Biblical jurisdictions/governmental forms are: 1) self-government, 2) family-government, 3) ecclesiastic government, 4) corporate-financial government outside of the family realm, and 5) civil government.

6. Localism:

The practice of pushing decision-making and provision down to the lowest level where people or organizations are actually living and practically responding to current needs and challenges (e.g. onsite). Localism is based on the notion that those closest to issues are best equipped to handle them. It results in the empowering of people living the reality of situations to deal with them based on first-hand observation and assessment. Localism is in contrast to centralism where key decisions are made for people in diverse locales by one central body far removed from actually living the needs and challenges.

7. Limits:

The recognition that limits both protect us from harm and protect us from harming others. Well-defined limits take into account different capacities, gifts, training, motivations, needs, challenges, jurisdictions of authority, etc.

8. Justice – Equality:

Justice is the concept that people are rewarded or punished as a result of their own specific actions and the rewards or punishments are correctly and appropriately applied using a commonly accepted standard. Equality is the concept of treating all people equally through the establishment of common rights, responsibilities, and opportunities without privilege or discrimination for certain groups. Justice deals with receiving what is one's proper due, equality deals with everyone receiving the same treatment.

9. Results-Based Policies:

The belief that theories, ideas, programs or actions should be tested and then evaluated based upon factual results rather than hopes, bias, projections or ideological paradigms. If the known variable factors have been properly tested the results should be allowed to "speak for themselves". Policies are then either applied or discarded based on the factual results.

10. The Bridge of Trust:

All successful, healthy mutual relationships - be they personal, organizational, national or international - are held together by trust between the parties. The trust can be evaluated by what pressures and challenges those relationships can withstand and remain intact without becoming "broken". The "bridge of trust" is a model for understanding how trust can be built and broken between people; a bridge can be a safe passageway of interaction between two parties or become broken preventing successful engagement.

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