

Healing the Culture: Rights

- Rights
 - REVIEW
 - Definition of rights: legal conditions that are either necessary or desirable for the fulfillment of human personhood within a society or state
 - Rights can be either extrinsic (allowed or imposed upon us from outside of ourselves) or intrinsic (we are born with them because God gave them to us by the fact of our human nature)
 - Extrinsic: the proper role of society/government is to:
 - Declare (make known) intrinsic rights and refrain from hindering them (e.g. not impose laws that restrict rights to life, liberty, or property)
 - Define/establish extrinsic rights via positive law (e.g. laws established for the organization and order of society, such as traffic laws)
 - DISCUSSION: What are inalienable rights? (Life, Liberty, Property)
 - Why is life so important? (*Because if I am not even alive, then it is impossible for me to attain to the perfection/fulfillment of human flourishing or even to strive for it*)
 - Why is liberty so important? (*Because liberty – autonomous conduct – is necessary for at least the possibility of self-possession to pursue the perfection/fulfillment of human flourishing*)
 - Why is property so important? (*Because really, it is an extension of liberty, and the ideal of self-autonomy necessitates the total ownership and control of one's own domicile → a man's home is his castle*)
 - DISCUSSION: Liberty → same as freedom? Does the inalienable right to liberty mean that we are free to do whatever we want, whenever we want, with whomever we want?
 - Liberty vs. license
 - The key component of what defines liberty: “perfection/fulfillment of human flourishing” → any freedom, therefore, that is not necessary for this is thus not an inalienable right
 - And so, let us consider freedom of speech: inalienable right? (Note: if a right is not inalienable, that does not mean that it is not important)
 - DISCUSSION: prioritization of inalienable rights
 - What is the most important, fundamental right?
 - What is the proper prioritization of inalienable rights and why?