



## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

# The Ninth Amendment

Our Rights Come from God, Not Government

### MEMORY VERSE

**"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him."**

*Genesis 1:27*

### FOR THE PARENT OR GRANDPARENT

The Ninth Amendment rests on one idea — a list of rights is not the whole of our rights, because our rights come from God and not from the paper. Ask the child to name one good thing that is on no list at all.

# Are all our rights written down?

Suppose your parents made a list of family rules.

The list says:

- ◆ Be kind.
- ◆ Tell the truth.
- ◆ Help with chores.
- ◆ Respect elders and care for youngers.

Does that mean those are the only good things you should ever do? Of course not! There are many other good and important things that may not be listed.

The Founders understood something similar about our rights. When they added the Bill of Rights, some people worried that if only a few rights were written down, future governments might wrongly claim that people had no other rights. The Ninth Amendment was written to answer that concern.





# The Actual Ninth Amendment

RATIFIED 1791

*“The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.”*





# What does it mean?

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The Ninth Amendment teaches a very important lesson: Just because a right is not specifically listed in the Constitution does not mean the people do not have that right.

The Bill of Rights names many important freedoms, but it does not contain every liberty that belongs to the people. The Ninth Amendment reminds us that the Constitution was not meant to be a complete list of every right.

Young people, imagine your parents say in homeschool, “You may bring pencils, crayons, or markers to class.” Does that mean you are not allowed to bring your notebook to take notes? No! The notebook simply was not listed. The Ninth Amendment teaches that some rights belong to the people even if they are not specifically written in the Constitution.





# Why did the Founders include it?

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When the Constitution was being debated, some leaders—including Alexander Hamilton—argued that a Bill of Rights might be unnecessary because the federal government had only the powers specifically given to it.

Others—including many Anti-Federalists—wanted a Bill of Rights to clearly protect individual freedoms. James Madison helped solve this disagreement. He wrote the Ninth Amendment to explain that listing some rights should never be understood to erase or weaken other rights that the people already possess.



# Where do our rights come from?

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One of America's founding beliefs is found in the Declaration of Independence, which says that people "...are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights..."

The Founders believed that our most basic rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness do not come from kings or presidents. They come from God, our Creator. Government's job is not to create those rights. Government's job is to recognize and protect them.

The Declaration of Independence also makes mention,

*"That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."*

*The Declaration of Independence*





# Not for Light and Transient Causes

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Young people, we are very close to having to consider doing this to preserve our future and hope. The Declaration addressed this possibility:

*Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.*

*The Declaration of Independence*



# Bible Connection

The Bible teaches that every person has value because each one is created in God's image.

## BIBLE VERSE

*“What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet.”*

*Psalms 8:4–6*

Because every person bears God's image, every person possesses God-given dignity. The Bible also reminds us: “The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof” (*Psalms 24:1*).





# Who Is the Ultimate Authority?

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God is the ultimate source of all authority. Human governments are accountable to Him. God is the Supreme authority and all governments He created for His glory and our good are delegated authorities. This means they have limits.

Western Civilization's liberties, which include America, were primarily based upon these two main concepts. If the civil government prohibits what God commands or commands what God prohibits, mankind is duty bound to obey God rather than man (*Acts 5:29*).



# The Virtues Behind the Ninth Amendment

## CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLE

## BIBLICAL VIRTUE

Respect for Human Dignity

**Love**

God-Given Rights

**Gratitude**

Limited Government

**Humility**

Respect for Others

**Honor**

Freedom with Responsibility

**Stewardship**

### REMEMBER THIS

**Freedom is a gift that should be used wisely.**





# Rights Come with Responsibilities

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The Ninth Amendment reminds us that rights are precious. That also means we should:

- ◆ Respect the rights of others.
- ◆ Use our freedom wisely.
- ◆ Love our neighbors.
- ◆ Honor God, who gives every person dignity.
- ◆ Never use freedom to harm others.



## REMEMBER THIS

**As Christians, we understand that true freedom is found in love, serving, and obeying God.**

# Constitution Fun Facts

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1

The Ninth Amendment is one of the shortest amendments in the Bill of Rights.

2

It was added in 1791 along with the other amendments in the Bill of Rights.

3

James Madison wrote the Ninth Amendment to reassure Americans that the Bill of Rights was not a complete list of every right.

4

Courts and legal scholars continue to discuss how the Ninth Amendment should be interpreted, making it one of the Constitution's most debated amendments.





# Founder Spotlight

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## James Madison

1751–1836

James Madison is often called the Father of the Constitution.

Although he first questioned whether a Bill of Rights was necessary, he listened to the concerns of many Americans and drafted the amendments that became the Bill of Rights. The Ninth Amendment reflects his wisdom in protecting liberties that were not specifically listed.

### MADISON'S WISDOM

**“The advancement and diffusion of knowledge is the only guardian of true liberty.”**

*Madison believed that a free people must understand both their rights and their responsibilities.*

# Words to Know

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## Enumeration

A list of things.

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## Retained

Kept or held by the people.

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## Unalienable Rights

Rights that cannot rightly be taken away because they come from our Creator.

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## Liberty

Freedom to live responsibly under the law.

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## Creator

God, who created the universe and made every person in His image.

### MEMORY VERSE

**“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him.”**

*Genesis 1:27*







COLOR IT IN

## You finished Chapter Thirteen!

The Ninth Amendment — nine down, one to go.

BILL OF RIGHTS

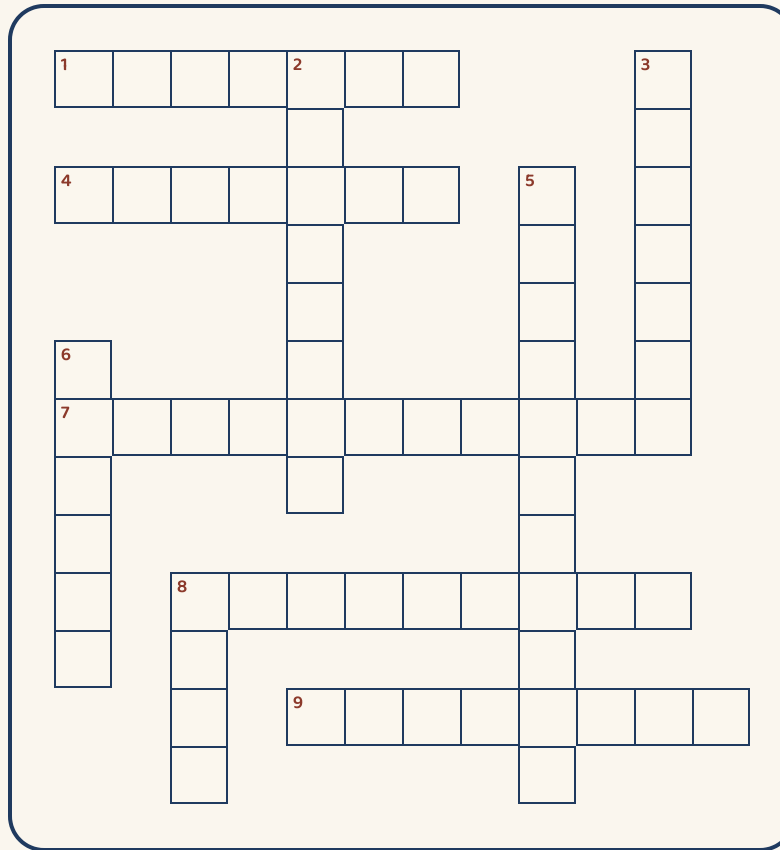


9 OF 10

- 1 A list of things is called an .....
- 2 Kept or held by the people means .....
- 3 Rights that cannot rightly be taken away because they come from our Creator are ..... Rights.
- 4 Freedom to live responsibly under the law is .....
- 5 God, who created the universe and made every person in His image, is our .....
- 6 The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to ..... or disparage others.
- 7 Certain rights shall not be construed to deny or ..... others.
- 8 The Ninth Amendment speaks of rights retained by the .....
- 9 James ..... wrote the Ninth Amendment.
- 10 Alexander ..... argued that a Bill of Rights might be unnecessary.

# Ninth Amendment Crossword

Every answer comes from this chapter. Write one letter in each white square.



## ACROSS

- 1 Freedom to live responsibly under the law.
- 4 The Declaration says we are endowed by our \_\_\_\_\_ with certain unalienable Rights.
- 7 A list of things.
- 8 Shall not be construed to deny or \_\_\_\_\_ others.
- 9 Alexander \_\_\_\_\_ thought a Bill of Rights might be unnecessary.

## DOWN

- 2 Kept or held by the people.
- 3 James \_\_\_\_\_, the Father of the Constitution.
- 5 Rights that cannot rightly be taken away are \_\_\_\_\_ Rights.
- 6 Others retained by the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 Shall not be construed to \_\_\_\_\_ or disparage others.



# Family Questions

*Think Together*

**1 • Why did the Founders say that not every right could be listed?**

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**2 • According to the Declaration of Independence, where do our rights come from?**

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**3 • Why is it important to remember that government protects rights rather than creating them?**

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**4 • How does man being made in God's image affect the way we treat other people?**

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**5 • How can we use our freedom to serve God and help others?**

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**FOR THE PARENT OR GRANDPARENT**

Question three is the heart of the chapter. If the child can say in their own words why government protects rights rather than creating them, they have understood the Ninth Amendment.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

# Gifts from God

Make two columns on a sheet of paper.

**Column 1:** Rights that are listed in the Bill of Rights.

EXAMPLES:

- ◆ Freedom of speech
- ◆ Freedom of religion
- ◆ Trial by jury

**Column 2:** Blessings and responsibilities that come from God.

EXAMPLES:

- ◆ Loving your family
- ◆ Helping a neighbor
- ◆ Caring for creation
- ◆ Worshiping God
- ◆ Telling the truth

Discuss how not every important blessing or responsibility must be written in the Constitution to be valuable.





# Constitution Corner

## Rights and responsibilities go together.

The Ninth Amendment reminds us of an important truth like a hand in a glove. Freedom is not permission to do whatever we want. Real freedom is the opportunity to do what is right.

The Apostle Paul wrote:

*“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another”*

*Galatians 5:13*

God gives freedom so we may love Him and serve others—not so we may live selfishly.



# A Grandparent's Thought

The Ninth Amendment in some ways teaches humility.

The Founders knew that no written document could list every blessing, every responsibility, or every God-given right that belongs to human beings. Some things don't take a piece of paper, but common sense.

That is why they reminded future generations that the people retain many rights beyond those specifically written in the Constitution.

As Christians, we believe our rights are rooted in something even greater than human government or document. They are grounded in the truth that every person is created in the image of God.



## THOUGHT TO REMEMBER

That truth calls us to use our freedom wisely, protect the rights of others, and honor the One from whom all true liberty flows.

**The greatest freedom is not simply the freedom to choose. It is the freedom to choose what is right before a holy God.**