

Once, when I was visiting the U.S. Congress, a person in the elevator saw a copy of this book in my hand, and said: "Honest Politics? Sounds like an oxymoron."

In view of an American political landscape where dishonesty is a major currency, and where accountability to honest questions is the exception, how do we proceed?

The need is to be biblically literate. In Genesis 2, Yahweh Elohim defines the original level playing field for man and woman to choose between good and evil, freedom and slavery, life and death. In so doing, the evil one is given the radical freedom to make his case. And unless we are free to say no to the Creator, we are not free to say yes. There is no coercion in the Gospel of Jesus the Messiah. Thus, in a political world full of distrust, the Gospel proactively seeks to create such a level playing field, to serve an aggressive hospitality for the freedom of dissent. Goodness, truth and beauty will always rise to the top.

In these pages, we will look at the six pillars of honest politics; the nature of unalienable rights given by the Creator (life, liberty and property); the advance of religious, political and economic liberty for all people equally; the level playing field; the love of hard questions in the face of debated issues; and checks and balances on power, rooted in the consent of the governed.

Finally, in an application of Occam's razor, to "reduce needless redundancies" or to "keep it simple," here is a proposed model for a simplified state constitution (in my home state of Connecticut) and likewise of the U.S. Constitution. Laws for each are then cut by over 99 percent, making possible a 50 percent cut in taxes and the size of government, and thus, the multiplying of economic liberty.



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THE SIX Pillars OF HONEST POLITICS RANKIN

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And the Power of the Pre-Partisan