## Free Is Beautiful: Why Catholics Should Embrace Libertarian Principles

In a world where the power of government seems to be ever-expanding, it is more important than ever for Catholics to embrace the principles of libertarianism.

Libertarianism is a political philosophy that emphasizes individual liberty and limited government. Libertarians believe that each individual has the right to life, liberty, and property, and that the government's role should be limited to protecting these rights.



#### Free is Beautiful: Why Catholics should be libertarian

by Teuvo Pakkala

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4.4 out of 5 Language : English File size : 1089 KB : Enabled Text-to-Speech Screen Reader : Supported Enhanced typesetting: Enabled Word Wise : Enabled Print length : 308 pages Lending : Enabled



These principles are in perfect harmony with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

The Church has always taught that the human person is created in the image and likeness of God, and that therefore each person has inherent

dignity and worth.

The Church has also taught that the government's role is to protect the rights of individuals, and that it should not interfere in the lives of individuals unless it is necessary to do so to protect the common good.

Libertarianism is the political philosophy that best reflects these Catholic teachings.

Libertarians believe that each individual should be free to make his or her own choices, as long as those choices do not harm others.

Libertarians believe that the government should not interfere in the free market, and that individuals should be free to pursue their economic interests without government interference.

Libertarians believe that the government should not interfere in personal relationships, and that individuals should be free to make their own decisions about marriage, family, and other personal matters.

These libertarian principles are consistent with the Catholic Church's teaching on human dignity, subsidiarity, and the common good.

### **Human Dignity**

The Catholic Church teaches that each human person is created in the image and likeness of God, and that therefore each person has inherent dignity and worth.

This teaching is incompatible with the idea that the government has the right to control the lives of individuals.

Libertarianism respects the dignity of each individual by allowing individuals to make their own choices, as long as those choices do not harm others.

#### **Subsidiarity**

The Catholic Church teaches that the government should not do what individuals or smaller communities can do for themselves.

This principle is known as subsidiarity.

Libertarianism respects the principle of subsidiarity by limiting the role of government to those areas where it is necessary to protect the rights of individuals.

#### **Common Good**

The Catholic Church teaches that the government has a responsibility to promote the common good.

This means that the government should create a social and economic environment in which all citizens can flourish.

Libertarianism promotes the common good by creating a free and prosperous society in which individuals are free to pursue their own economic interests.

#### **Objections to Libertarianism**

Some people argue that libertarianism is incompatible with Catholic social teaching.

They argue that libertarianism is too focused on individual rights and that it does not take into account the needs of the poor and the vulnerable.

However, this criticism is based on a misunderstanding of libertarianism.

Libertarianism is not opposed to helping the poor and the vulnerable.

Libertarians believe that the best way to help the poor and the vulnerable is to create a free and prosperous society in which individuals are free to pursue their own economic interests.

Libertarianism also recognizes that there are some cases in which government intervention is necessary to protect the rights of individuals.

For example, libertarians support government programs that provide for the poor and the disabled.

Libertarians also support government regulations that protect the environment.

Libertarianism is a political philosophy that is consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Libertarianism respects human dignity, subsidiarity, and the common good.

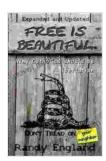
Catholics should embrace libertarian principles as a way to promote a more just and prosperous society.

#### Call to Action

I encourage you to learn more about libertarianism and its relationship to Catholic social teaching.

I also encourage you to get involved in the political process and to support candidates who share your libertarian values.

Together, we can build a more free and prosperous society for all.



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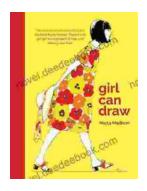
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