

# Part One, American Government and U.S. Constitution

Lesson 5 of 27:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Part II: The Founders' Basic Principles – 28 great Ideas that Changed the World

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Principle : Election of Virtuous Leaders

Lesson 5: Principle 3 - Virtuous and Moral Leaders

Reading Assignment: The 5000 Year Leap: 3rd Principle: Virtuous and Moral Leaders  
(pages 59-73)

THE MOST PROMISING METHOD OF SECURING A VIRTUOUS AND MORALLY STABLE PEOPLE IS TO ELECT VIRTUOUS LEADERS.

Lesson 5 objectives: As a result of this lesson. the student should be able to discuss the following questions/topics:

1. According to Samuel Adams, what is one way to identify the true friends of liberty?  
(pages 59-60)

One who tries to promote it's **virtue**; one who will only **promote wise and virtuous people**.

2. By what method did the founders want citizens to qualify themselves for public office?  
(60-62)

By **personal merit**, not wealth and reputation of his ancestors

Aristocracy =

<u>Artificial</u>	Vs.	<u>*Natural</u>
-inherit		-virtue
-wealth		-talents
-social status		-proven ability
		-accomplishments

\* Government is best which provides a pure selection process of the natural *aristoi* and puts them into public office.– Jefferson

3. Describe the founders' view of the whole subject of politics. (62-64)

Cicero on Politics: "A godly function because it preserves people's rights and freedom"

John Adams: "Politics are the Divine Science." [not an emotion]

\*Natural Progression of Liberty -politics and war -math and philosophy

-natural history, commerce, agriculture -painting, poetry, music etc.

THUS– It is more virtuous to run for office than to just pawn it off on others.

4. How did Benjamin Franklin describe the two weaknesses that tempt people in public office?

(64-67)

Making Public Office an Honor Rather Than a Position of Profit?

\* A post of Honor for recognized accomplishments

\* Not a post of profit to make money

## The Example of Washington

-Wanted to be a farmer            -Called by his countrymen:    – War – Const. Conv. – Pres.  
Franklin Position: \*Most public business done gratis \*Two conditions driving to public office: *ambition & avarice*

5. What did Franklin prophesy would most likely happen to public officials over time?  
(67-69)

Pay raises; money and power dominate and control: therefore keep their salaries LOW!

6. Describe the founders' efforts to prevent public offices from becoming monetary attractions.

(69-73)

Lessen the profits by legislature.

How to develop character and virtue sufficient?

- Have a system of strong basic beliefs
- Have courage to reject false philosophies
- Keep yourself serviceable