Liberty is not license

In the state of nature a person is free, yet not free to destroy himself or to harm others at will. There is already a law of nature, and reason can know it.

Equal under one Maker

Locke grounds that law in this: human beings are the workmanship of one wise Maker, sent into the world about His business, and so are not one another's property.

Life, liberty, and possessions

No one ought to harm another in life, health, liberty, or possessions. Civil government, later in the book, exists chiefly to protect these more steadily than each man can alone.

A ONE-PAGE SHEET

Second Treatise of Government

John Locke

AD 1689 · ORIGINAL ENGLISH

> *"The state of nature has a law of nature to govern it, which obliges every one: and reason, which is that law, teaches all mankind, who will but consult it, that being all equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty, or possessions"*

CHAPTER II, §6 · ORIGINAL ENGLISH, 1689

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What a Christian reader should weigh

Locke himself ties natural rights to the workmanship of God. Later readers often drop the Maker and keep the rights. Consent does not turn the family or the Church to do whatever one wishes. The law of nature, in this book, still obliges.