

We the People

FREDERICK DOUGLASS REPUBLICANS™

It's Not About Color: It's About Values



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LibertyMESSENGER™

INTRODUCTION

K. Carl's Testimony

“Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it.”

- 2 Corinthians 13:5 (The Message)

The challenge God gives us is a simple one. Examine “yourselves” and do not scrutinize someone else’s life. Reading my life backwards was a self-examination process. Looking at the man in the mirror was not an easy thing to do. It was the most trying and difficult experience of my life. Both mentally and spiritually challenging, this personal review process forced me to examine my personal relationship with Jesus Christ and question my political and historical beliefs that I thought were based on facts.

I had to decide if I was going to keep placing my allegiance for a political party ahead of my worship of Jehovah God. I had to decide if I was going to continue putting color before character and race before religion. As a result, I made up my mind to be a “Christian champion” and not a “political chump”, regardless of party affiliation.

It was time for me to take an unwavering stand for Jesus Christ. Why was the process of reading my life backwards such a tough thing for me to do? I did not recognize I was spiritually and politically ill—a politico-schizophrenic. The manner in which I was voting did not match my Christian values. I was living one way and voting another. I was attending church on Sundays, raising “holy hands”, and with those same “holy hands” on Election Day I would vote the complete opposite of the biblical teachings I received just days or weeks prior.

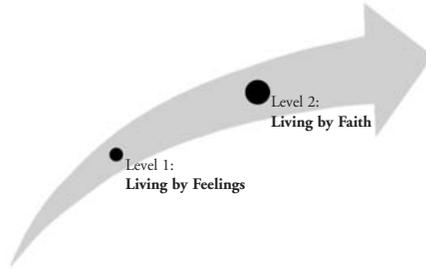
I realize this is a sad acknowledgment, but understand the manipulative powers of coercive persuasion. External forces were at play—masterfully controlling my normal thought process.

If it was not brainwashing, what else explains why a Christian would vote the complete opposite of his or her belief—spitting in God’s face?

Every day I thank God for His divine deliverance.

Divine Deliverance Process

God delivered me from my self-oppressive politico-schizophrenic mindset by taking me through the following process. It is broken down into two graduated levels as shown below:



Level #1 – Living by Feelings:

¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I stopped those childish ways.
- 1 Corinthians 13:11 (NCV)

This is the childish, immature or faithless level. At this level, my reasoning and critical thinking skills were nowhere to be found. Intellect did not exist. Like Pavlov’s dog, I was steeped in emotions and feelings. I had zero regard for facts concerning the issues. No matter what the truth was, I voted based on my feelings for the Democratic Party and not based on principles. Politicians know this. They play on our emotions to control our vote.

The Democratic Party takes the black vote for granted because they know that regardless of the issue or the candidate, they will get at least 95 percent of the black vote. Why? Because just as I did, many black Americans vote democratic based on deep-seated family voting traditions and not based on Christian values and their allegiance to Jehovah God.

I lived my political life based on feelings. As a result, I was easily misled, manipulated and presumed to have the propensity of being thoughtless and childlike when it came to politics.

I was so brainwashed that if the Democratic donkey was a candidate on the ballot, guess what? Yes, I would have voted for the donkey.

As a *politico-schizophrenic*, I allowed my emotions to keep me from accepting historical and political truths. Feelings should not be used to determine our service to God, nor should it be used to decide how we should vote or with which political party we should align ourselves.

I had to learn to get past emotionalism and get to the facts. I realized I was living my political life based on fixed emotions and not based on truths and facts.

The Linchpin – Knowing the Facts:

³²*Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*- John 8:32 (NIV)

Knowing the truth serves as the linchpin for the entire Divine Deliverance Process. Why? Facts are undeniable. Facts cannot be argued.

Knowing the facts enabled me to reach level #2—the ultimate goal. Without it, the goal of “living by faith” cannot be achieved.

To break the cycle of my politico-schizophrenic mindset required me to gather the facts about the issues, history and political platforms of each party. The only way to “build your faith” is by knowing and accepting the truth. I analyzed and evaluated those facts based on my Christian beliefs.

Level #2 – Living by Faith:

³⁸*Those who are right with me will live by faith. But if they turn back with fear, I will not be pleased with them.*

- Hebrews 10:38 (NCV)

⁶*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.*

- Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

Facts produce faith. After developing my Political Value Structure, I had to decide if I would earnestly serve Jehovah God or if my ultimate allegiance would be to a political party. Knowing my political values helped me make an educated and informed decision. As a result, I re-dedicated my life to Jesus Christ. Through the political party of my choice, I became actively involved in the legislative process to support the causes that lined up with my Christian values.

I promised God I would “live by faith” in all areas of my life, including politics. I pray you do the same!

Why I am a Frederick Douglass Republican

I am a Republican, a black dyed in the wool Republican, and I never intend to belong to any other party than the party of freedom and progress.

- Frederick Douglass (1817-1895)

Some people assume incorrectly that the expression, “*Frederick Douglass Republicans™*,” refers to a minority sub-group of the GOP or that it is the name of an organization, a foundation, or a club. Neither is the case. It has nothing to do with racial separation.

The phrase “Frederick Douglass Republicans” is an all-inclusive political platform based on the four Life-Empowering Values of Frederick Douglass: (1) Respect for the CONSTITUTION, (2) Respect for LIFE, (3) Belief in LIMITED GOVERNMENT, and (4) Belief in PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

As with the turn-of-phrases, “Tea Party Conservative” and “Reagan Conservative,” “*Frederick Douglass Republicans*” is a political point of view and a rallying call to defend liberty.

What began as a mantra has now developed into a nationwide political movement—catching the attention of thousands of Americans—regardless of their race.

Any person may become a Frederick Douglass Republican because it is not about COLOR, it is about VALUES.

The “Party of Freedom and Progress”

The Republican Party in Douglass’ day was one of freedom and progress. Douglass committed his time, talents, and treasury in support of the Republican Party. Serving as a catalyst within the Abolitionist Movement that gave birth to the Republican Party, it was Douglass who declared political war on slavery, thus Charles Sumner established the Republican Party.

Douglass' quote at the beginning of this chapter is both profound and powerful. It raises some important questions: (1) Why did Douglass make such a declaration? (2) What were the political principles and values of the Republican Party that motivated him to support it? and (3) What were the legislative policies and historical events of the Republican Party that exemplified "*freedom*" and "*progress*?"

The Republican Party was started in 1854. In fact, the Republican Party began as a merger of anti-slavery members from four political parties: (1) Democrats, (2) Whigs, (3) Free-Soilers, and (4) the Emancipationists.

Prior to the founding of the Republican Party, the Democratic Party gained control of Congress in 1820. From 1820 to 1854, the Democrat-controlled Congress passed pro-slavery laws and blocked the civil rights of black Americans. The Democrat-led Congress passed three specific laws:

- In 1820 the Missouri Compromise was passed. This law permitted slavery in the federal territories and it reversed the Northwest Ordinance of 1789 (The Northwest Ordinance forbade slavery in the federal territories).¹
- In 1850 the Fugitive Slave Law was passed. This law required Northerners to return escaped slaves back into slavery or pay a huge fine. Because of this law approximately 20,000 blacks in the North fled to Canada.²
- In 1854 the Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed. This law extended slavery into parts of the Kansas-Nebraska territory, which included Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, North Dakota, and South Dakota.³

The passing of these three laws created an intense political climate. To neutralize the pro-slavery agenda of the Democratic Party, the Republican Party was formed with two main purposes in mind: (1) To end slavery; and (2) To secure equal civil rights for black Americans.⁴

In 1860, Republican Party candidate Abraham Lincoln was elected the 16th President of the United States. For the first time, the Republican Party won the majority in the U.S. House and Senate, giving them control of the lawmaking process.⁵

With this new-found political clout, the Republican-controlled Congress passed the following laws that ended slavery and secured the civil rights of black Americans:

- In 1862 slavery was abolished in Washington, D.C.⁶
- In 1863 the Emancipation Proclamation was issued—freeing all slaves in the Southern states.⁷
- In 1864 the Fugitive Slave Law was abolished—over the almost unanimous opposition of the northern Democrats still in Congress.⁸
- In 1865 the Freedmen’s Bureau Law was passed. This law formed a federal agency that set up schools and hospitals for black Americans and it distributed clothes, food, and fuel throughout the south.⁹
- In 1865 the 13th Amendment was passed. This amendment officially abolished slavery in the United States.¹⁰
- In 1868 the 14th Amendment was passed. This amendment declared that former slaves were full citizens of the State in which they lived and were therefore entitled to all the rights and privileges of any other citizen in that State.¹¹
- On a negative note, in 1876, Republican President Rutherford B. Hayes negotiated with the Democrat-governed U.S. House and endorsed the Great Compromise. This law ordered federal troops to withdraw from Florida, Louisiana, and South Carolina—officially ending Reconstruction in the South.¹²

First Black State Legislators

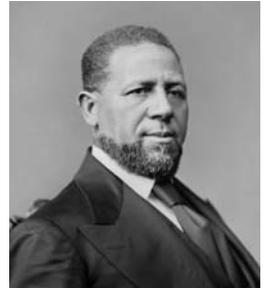
As the Republican Party exerted its influence to establish laws and policies that terminated slavery and supported the civil rights of black Americans, the period of Reconstruction (1865-1877) was a time of enormous political progress for black Americans. The first elected black legislators in the Southern states were Republicans. For example:

- In Texas, the first 42 blacks elected to the state legislature were Republicans.¹³
- In Louisiana, the first 95 black state representatives and the first 32 black state senators were Republicans.¹⁴
- In Alabama, the first 103 blacks elected to the state legislature were Republicans.¹⁵
- In Mississippi, the first 112 blacks elected to the state legislature were Republicans.¹⁶
- In South Carolina, the first 190 blacks elected to the state legislature were Republicans.¹⁷
- In Virginia, the first 46 blacks elected to the state legislature were Republicans.¹⁸
- In Georgia, the first 41 blacks elected to the state legislature were Republicans.¹⁹
- In Florida and North Carolina, the first 30 blacks elected to the state legislature were Republicans.²⁰

First Black U.S. Congressmen

Along with black Republicans being elected to state offices, they also impacted the political arena on a national level. For instance, the first seven black Americans elected to the U.S. Congress were all Republicans. They were as follows:

Hiram Rhodes Revel from Mississippi was America's first black U.S. Senator. He was an ordained minister in the AME church and served as a chaplain during the Civil War. He was President of Alcorn State University.²¹





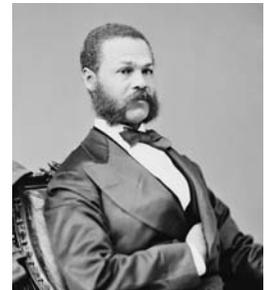
Benjamin Turner from Alabama was a slave during the Civil War but within five years after the war he became a wealthy and prosperous businessman. He started a school for black children.²²

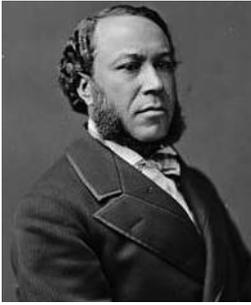
Robert DeLarge from South Carolina was born into slavery. He chaired the Republican Party's Platform Committee and became a statewide elected official. He died of tuberculosis at the age of thirty-one.²³



Josiah Walls from Florida was a slave during the Civil War and was forced to fight for the Confederate Army. After being captured by Union troops, he promptly enlisted as a Union soldier and became an officer.²⁴

Jefferson Long from Georgia was born a slave. He was self-educated and built a thriving business. He was the first black American to deliver a congressional speech in the U.S. Senate. He served for one session of the 41st Congress (December 1870 – March 1871).²⁵





Joseph Hayne Rainey from South Carolina was born into slavery. He served briefly as Speaker of the U. S. House and was in Congress longer than any other black American from that era. Rainey was an advocate of the 1871 Ku Klux Klan Act and the 1875 Civil Rights Act.²⁶

Robert Brown Elliot from South Carolina was well educated—he could read in Spanish, French, and Latin. In Congress, he led in the passage of various civil rights bills and later became Speaker of the House in the State legislature. Elliot studied law and established his own practice.²⁷



Getting the GOP Back on Track

Today's Republican Party does not resemble the Republican Party of Douglass' day—it has gotten off track by treating the party as a country club and catering to the concerns of the corporate elite.

In fact, both parties have a history of bailing out corporate giants that are labeled as “too big to fail,” while overlooking the pain and suffering of the poor and working poor.

In 2009 the Obama administration rescued Wall Street Bankers with a loan of \$850 billion. In 2008, the George W. Bush administration supported financial giant Bear Stearns with \$30 billion. In 1989, President George H.W. Bush signed the Financial Institutions Reform Recovery & Enforcement Act, which bailed out the savings & loan institutions in the amount of \$293 billion. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed the Chrysler Loan Guarantee Act, which provided Chrysler with a loan of \$1.5 billion.²⁸

If the giant financial corporations are “too big to fail” then the poor and the working poor are “too big to fail”.

Both parties—Democrats and Republicans—have failed to adhere to the principles of the Constitution and the values of the Declaration of Independence.

The goal of the Frederick Douglass Republican Movement is to help the modern-day Republican Party recapture its political distinction and become a vanguard of Douglass' four Life-Empowering Values, thereby re-igniting America's passion for liberty.

Making the Poor a Priority

Many are unaware that Frederick Douglass was an ordained minister and his views and concepts about God emanate through his writings. For example, in his letter to his former master, Thomas Auld, Douglass wrote: "...*thanks be to the Most High, who is ever the God of the oppressed.*"²⁹ Douglass refers to God as the "*God of the oppressed.*" In other words, God stands with and is on the side of people who are being economically, politically and socially exploited. If America claims to be a nation under God and a country grounded in Judeo-Christian principles, then Douglass offers a strong challenge: we must champion the cause of the poor and working poor. In fact, Douglass' motto for his newspaper, Douglass' Monthly, was: "*Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.*" - Proverbs 31:9 (NKJV)

We reside in the richest nation in the world but approximately 21 percent of children in the United States live below the poverty line—16 million children. This includes all children: black, white, brown, red, and yellow. This is more than a race problem; it's a human problem. Along with compassionate prayers and philanthropic gestures, our children need legislative policies that foster education reform and not socialist teaching; self-reliance and not government dependence; and private sector job growth and not the expansion of centralized government.

The goal of the Frederick Douglass Republican Movement is to agitate all political parties to make the pain and plight of the poor and working poor a priority on their political agenda. They must legislate policies that value the most vulnerable in our society and empower the "least of these" in our community—when the "most vulnerable" and the "least of these" are empowered all of us will be elevated.

Facts About the Democratic Party

For the present, the best representative of the slavery party in politics is the Democratic Party

- Frederick Douglass, *The Slavery Party* (1853)

In his books, writings, articles, editorials and speeches Frederick Douglass described the historical events of the Democratic Party that crippled and hindered the liberation of black Americans.

A Deceptive and Deficient Civil Rights Record

- In 1820, a Democrat-controlled Congress passed the Missouri Compromise, which permitted slavery in the federal territories.¹
- In 1850, the Fugitive Slave Law was approved, which required Northerners to return escaped slaves back into slavery or pay a financial fine.²
- In 1854, the Kansas-Nebraska Act was authorized, which extended slavery into Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, North Dakota, and South Dakota.³
- In 1857, the Dred Scott Decision was delivered by a Democrat-dominated Supreme Court—it declared that blacks were not persons or citizens but instead were property and therefore have no rights.⁴
- From 1865 to 1875 Southern Democratic legislatures implemented the following civil rights barriers to prevent blacks from voting and

weakened their political representation: poll tax, literary tests, “Grandfather” clauses, “multiple ballots,” Black Codes, gerrymandering, white-only primaries, physical intimidation and violence, property ownership requirements, and restrictive eligibility.⁵

- In 1866, Democrats formed the Ku Klux Klan in order to curtail the political influence of the Republican Party in the black community through intimidation and physical violence.⁶
- In 1876, a Democrat-governed U.S. House endorsed the Great Compromise. This law ordered federal troops to withdraw from Florida, Louisiana, and South Carolina—officially ending Reconstruction in the South.⁷
- In 1876, following the withdrawal of the federal troops, the South became known as the “Solid Democratic South.” As a result, white supremacy was re-established in the South because Democrats controlled southern state legislatures.⁸
- From 1882 to 1964, 4,743 individuals were lynched—3,446 blacks and 1,297 whites. In fact, during this timeframe the Democrats successfully blocked anti-lynching laws and failed to condemn lynching in its political platforms.⁹
- In 1896, the Supreme Court—which was controlled by Democrats—issued its *Plessy vs. Ferguson* decision reaffirming its pro-segregation policy.¹⁰
- In 1912 Woodrow Wilson, the Democratic candidate for president, promised fairness and justice for blacks if elected. In a letter to a black church official, Wilson wrote, “*Should I become President of the United States they may count upon me for absolute fair dealing for everything by which I could assist in advancing their interests of the race.*” But after the election, Wilson changed his tune. He dismissed 15 out of 17 black supervisors who had been previously appointed to federal jobs and replaced them with whites. He also refused to appoint black ambassadors to Haiti and Santa Domingo, posts traditionally awarded

to African Americans. Two of Wilson's cabinet ministers, Postmaster General Albert Burelson and Treasury Secretary William McAdoo, both Southerners, issued orders segregating their departments. Throughout the country, blacks were segregated or dismissed from federal positions.¹¹

- In 1932, under the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Democrats placed language in their platform calling for an end to racial discrimination. In spite of this new language Democrats in Congress sought to destroy every piece of civil rights legislation introduced during that time.¹²
- On a positive note, in 1948, President Truman (a Democrat) ended segregation in the armed forces and the civil service through administrative action (executive order) rather than through legislation.¹³
- In 1956, Dr. Martin L. King Jr. and Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy voted for Republican president, Dwight D. Eisenhower.¹⁴
- Daddy King (father of Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.) and nearly all of the most powerful preachers of the National Baptist Convention were life-long Republicans.¹⁵
- 1957 Civil Rights Bill – Senate Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson deleted from the bill a provision empowering the Justice Department to sue for the enforcement of school desegregation. Both Senator Johnson and Senator John F. Kennedy voted for the jury trial amendment. In its original draft was a condition that certain violations of it could be tried in court without the benefit of a jury trial. This was an important stipulation because Southern juries would never convict a white person accused of violating the civil rights of a black person.¹⁶
- In 1963, Alabama Democratic Governor George Wallace stood at the door of Foster Auditorium at the University of Alabama in a symbolic attempt to block two black students from enrolling at the school.¹⁷
- In 1963, Democrat Eugene “Bull” Connor blatantly opposed the Civil Rights Movement by ordering the Birmingham police and firemen to use dogs and high-pressure water hoses against demonstrators.¹⁸

- In 1964, Democratic Senators Robert Byrd of West Virginia and Richard Russell of Georgia—through long filibuster speeches—led the fight against the 1964 Civil Rights Act.¹⁹

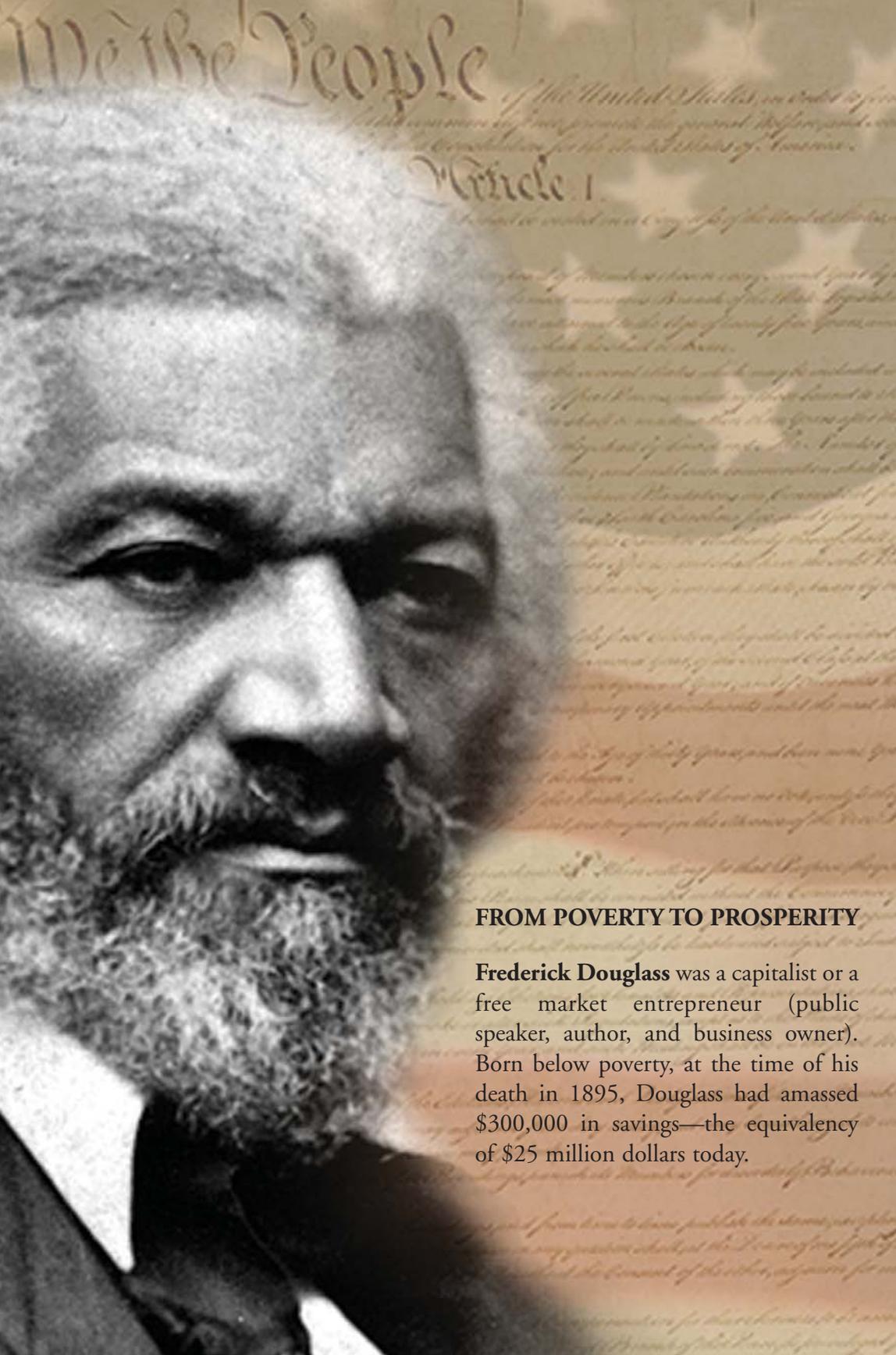
The “Slavery Party”

This list of legislative actions and historical events of the Democratic Party is mentioned because it is assumed—especially by the black community—that the Democratic Party has always championed the cause of civil rights for black Americans. Nothing could be farther from the truth. In fact, when it comes to the civil rights of black Americans, the Democratic Party often stood on the side of injustice rather than justice. This is why Frederick Douglass refers to the Democratic Party as the “slavery party”—because their political policies and social actions favored slavery rather than freedom.

Racism has No Political Face

There is no perfect political party. Like the Democratic Party, the Republican Party does not have a clean record as it relates to the liberation of black Americans. For instance, when President Lincoln gave his first inaugural address in 1861, he publicly supported slavery and the Fugitive Slave Law. He stated: *“I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so. Those who nominated and elected me did so with full knowledge that I made this and many similar declarations, and had never recanted them.”* Douglass was extremely disappointed with the content of President Lincoln’s speech and voiced his concerns. Douglass contended, *“It is a double-tongued document...Mr. Lincoln opens his address by announcing his complete loyalty to slavery in the slave States.”*²⁰

In the beginning of his administration, President Lincoln was more loyal to the slaveholders and to maintaining slavery than to delivering the slaves from oppression. In spite of President Lincoln’s unwillingness to end slavery and his lack of support for the civil rights of black Americans, Douglass did not give up on him. He urged President Lincoln to adhere to the noble principles in the Constitution, make the suffering of the slaves a priority on his political agenda, and work toward their emancipation. As a result of Douglass’ constant agitation, President Lincoln grew and developed as a leader and later issued the Emancipation Proclamation—liberating the slaves in America.



FROM POVERTY TO PROSPERITY

Frederick Douglass was a capitalist or a free market entrepreneur (public speaker, author, and business owner). Born below poverty, at the time of his death in 1895, Douglass had amassed \$300,000 in savings—the equivalency of \$25 million dollars today.

Racism does not have a political face. Each party has room for improvement. Just as Douglass challenged President Lincoln, the purpose of the Frederick Douglass Republican Movement is to agitate Republican and Democratic politicians who do not adhere to the principles and limitations of the Constitution—passing laws that do not protect our God-given rights for self-dignity and self-rule of all American citizens.

A Christian for Life

As I researched the history of both parties, I was amazed to learn of the Republican Party's impressive record of supporting the liberation of black Americans. Conversely, I was angered to discover the Democratic Party's disgraceful past on civil rights. To put it bluntly, I discovered the history of the Democratic Party has been described in such a way that is not only false, but also politically advantageous.

On the other hand, the Republican Party today does not resemble the Republican Party during the times of Frederick Douglass. Therefore, one of the primary objectives of the Frederick Douglass Republican Movement is to help the Republican Party recapture its political distinction through agitation and activism.

I am not an apologist for the Republican Party. I could care less about a party's name. For me, values and principles are more important than party affiliation. That is why I agree with Rep. Robert Brown Elliot (a black Republican congressman from South Carolina during the Reconstruction Era). He stated: "*I am the slave of [Christian] principles; I call no [political] party my master.*"

Frederick Douglass’ Success Strategy

“The plan which I adopted, and the one by which I was most successful, was that of making friends of all the little white boys whom I met in the street. As many as I could, I converted into teachers. With their kindly aid,...I finally succeeded in learning to read.”

- Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (1845)

A high achiever in life, Douglass’ upbringing was one of suffering, pain, and death—the slave system. His slave experience was worse than the present conditions of urban youth—emotional pains and hardships.

Douglass had no male-presence in the home. He witnessed and was a recipient of physical violence. He saw people succumb to drug abuse. Douglass had no formal schooling, while urban youth attend poor-performing and decrepit schools. He had no healthcare, while urban youth possess inadequate healthcare. He was treated like property, while urban youth reside in poverty. Douglass never owned a pair of shoes until the age of eight and never slept in a bed until the age of 10.

In spite of these horrendous living conditions, Douglass developed a success strategy that sustained him in slavery and prepared him for freedom. As an ordained AME Zion preacher, Douglass’ message of success speaks to the heart and soul of today’s urban youth—providing purpose, passion, power and an action plan for their lives.

Douglass’ powerful success strategy included:

- Listening to Stories
- Singing Songs
- Reading Books
- Courageous Courage
- Serving Others, and
- Unmatched Work Ethic

Douglass on the Constitution

The Constitution reads, *“We the people; not we the white people,”* Douglass proclaimed; *“and if Negroes are people, they are included in the benefits for which the Constitution of America was ordained and established.”*²¹

Douglass on the Three-Fifths Compromise

Many people (especially liberal Democrats) contend the Constitution is a pro-slavery document in light of the three-fifths compromise which states:

“Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included in this union, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three-fifths of all other persons . . .”

(Article 1, Section 2.3)

It was Douglass who provided clarity on this issue. In a speech delivered in Glasgow, Scotland, March 26, 1860, Douglass explained the true meaning of the three-fifths compromise:

“It is a downright disability laid upon the slaveholding States; one which deprives those States of two-fifths of their natural basis of representation. A black man in a free State is worth just two-fifths more than a black man in a slave State, as a basis of political power under the Constitution. Therefore, instead of encouraging slavery, the Constitution encourages freedom by giving an increase of “two-fifths” of political power to free over slave States. So much for the three-fifths clause; taking it at its worst, it still leans to freedom, not to slavery; for, be it remembered that the Constitution nowhere forbids a coloured man to vote.”

Thus, the three-fifths clause was written for the sole purpose of limiting congressional representation of the slave states. According to the Constitution, for every 30,000 residents in a state, that state would receive one representative to Congress. The slave states wanted to count each slave as one vote. Rejecting

their demand, the Northern states argued that no slave would be counted as a vote as long as that person was a slave.

A compromise was reached in that 50,000 slaves rather than 30,000 slaves would equal one congressional representative. In other words, the three-fifths compromise denied the slave states additional pro-slavery representation in Congress.



“The American Constitution is a written instrument full and complete in itself. No court in America, no Congress, no President can add a single word thereto, or take a single word therefrom. It is a great national enactment done by the people, and can only be altered, amended, or added to by the people.”

- Frederick Douglass

Douglass on Wealth Redistribution

Douglass did not advocate wealth redistribution but new wealth creation. In his article entitled *The Nature of Slavery* (December 1, 1850), Douglass stated that slavery is built on the distorted philosophy of one reaping the fruits and benefits of another person’s hard work and industrious efforts. Douglass wrote, “...*The slave toils that another may reap the fruit; he is industrious that another may live in idleness...*”²²

Douglass would not support policies that create a WELFARE state, but he would favor laws that produce a WEALTH-FARE economy—starting small businesses to end generational poverty.

Today's entitlement programs must be reformed and restructured so they can transform the poor from being consumers to producers, borrowers to lenders, and poverty dwellers to business owners.

Douglass on Welfare

Douglass' idea of personal responsibility is further evidenced by his working relationship with Master Hugh. He rejected the welfare mentality as illustrated in the following statement:

“He would, however, when I made him six dollars, sometimes give me six cents, to encourage me. It had the opposite effect... He said if I behaved myself properly, he would take care of me. Indeed, he advised me to complete thoughtlessness of the future, and taught me to depend solely upon him for happiness. He seemed to see fully the pressing necessity of setting aside my intellectual nature, in order to contentment in slavery. But in spite of him, and even in spite of myself, I continued to think, and to think about the injustice of my enslavement, and the means of escape.”²³

In this quote Douglass informs us that in the life of the slave, the one and only means of existence was the slave master. Likewise, power elite politicians seek to make the government the source of our existence.

For example, today's welfare system is detrimental to the people it claims to care for. In reality, it encourages and bolsters a slave mentality as Douglass describes in his above quote. It creates a perpetual underclass and allows generational poverty to flourish.

Far too many welfare recipients have become solely dependent upon the slave government to care for them—believing the government owes them something—rendering them helpless and unable to escape the slave government's control over their lives.

In short, the welfare system should not become a permanent lifestyle, but it should serve as a temporary boost for a better life.

End Notes

Why I am a Frederick Douglass Republican

¹Philip S. Foner, ed., **Frederick Douglass: Selections from His Writings** (New York: International Publishers, 1964), p. 686.

²Ibid., p. 263.

³Ibid., p. 298.

⁴Thomas Hudson McKee, *The National Conventions and Platforms of All Political Parties, 1789-1905* (New York: Burt Franklin, 1971), pp. 18-20; *Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives* online, "Party Divisions" (at <http://clerk.house.gov/histHigh/CongressionalHistory/partyDiv.php>); CNN *AllPolitics.com*, "Democratic Party History," August 2, 2000 (<http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2000/conventions/democratic/features/history/>).

⁵David Barton, *The History of Black Voting Rights* (3/2003) (<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/news/1072053/posts>).

⁶Foner, **Frederick Douglass: Selections from His Writings**, p. 494.

⁷Ibid., p. 510.

⁸Ibid., p. 330.

⁹Ibid., p. 738.

¹⁰Ibid., p. 586.

¹¹Ibid., p. 686.

¹²Scip, *The South Returns to Congress*, pp. 257-258; John R. Lynch, *The Facts of Reconstruction* (New York: Neale Publishing Company, 1913), pp. 171-181; Blaine, *Twenty Years of Congress*, pp. 595-596; Flower, *History of the Republican Party*, p. 333.

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End Notes

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