

Tom G. Palmer Quotes

*Choices, Adults, Obligation, Differences, Rights, Tickets, Government, Liberty,
Doe, Children, Groups, Healthy, World, White, May, Numbers, Important,
Essentials, Insane, Trying*

What libertarians assert is simply that differences among normal adults do not imply different fundamental rights.

~Tom G. Palmer

Libertarians recognize the difference between adults and children, as well as differences between normal adults and adults who are insane or mentally hindered or retarded.

~Tom G. Palmer

If an individual is born with the obligation to obey, who is born with the right to command?

~Tom G. Palmer

The government has become a mechanism for distributing largess, and your census form is your ticket.

~Tom G. Palmer

The reason the government sells the census as your ticket to getting goodies - rather than as your civic duty - is that distributing goodies is now all the government does.

~Tom G. Palmer

Libertarians recognize the inevitable pluralism of the modern world and for that reason assert that individual liberty is at least part of the common good.

~Tom G. Palmer

It is precisely because neither individuals nor small groups can be fully self-sufficient that cooperation is necessary to human survival and flourishing.

~Tom G. Palmer

But there is no obvious reason for holding that some normal adults are entitled to make choices for other normal adults, as paternalists of both

left and right believe.

~Tom G. Palmer

Equality of rights means that some people cannot simply impose obligations on others, for the moral agency and rights of those others would then be violated.

~Tom G. Palmer

Libertarians typically argue that particular obligations, at least under normal circumstances, must be created by consent; they cannot be unilaterally imposed by others.

~Tom G. Palmer

Guardians are necessary for children and abnormal adults, because they cannot make responsible choices for themselves.

~Tom G. Palmer

Group personification obscures, rather than illuminates, important political questions.

~Tom G. Palmer

Abstraction is a mental process we use when trying to discern what is essential or relevant to a problem; it does not require a belief in abstract entities.

~Tom G. Palmer

Obviously, all of us have been influenced by those around us.

~Tom G. Palmer

Obligations may be universal or particular.

~Tom G. Palmer

[L]et me point out that libertarians defend a tradition of liberty that is the fruit of thousands of years of human history.

~Tom G. Palmer

To repeat, communitarians maintain that we are constituted as persons by our particular obligations, and therefore those obligations cannot be a matter of choice.

~Tom G. Palmer

Most Europeans have no idea how wild life can be in north America.

~Tom G. Palmer

It is obvious that different individuals require different things to live good, healthy, and virtuous lives.

~Tom G. Palmer

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