

Happy Dependence Day

1. God is God or man is god.

We celebrate Independence Day which is a good label for the spirit of America. The problem is that you can only fit so much in a slogan. It speaks of independence from the irresponsible rule of England at that time but what *underlies* Independence Day is a foundation of *dependence* on God. This is what made all the difference between the American Revolution and the greatness of America, and the French Revolution and the Reign of Terror that followed. Godliness and responsibility to God characterized the philosophy of American independence. Self and the subjective ideals of man characterized the philosophy of the French Revolution. The American founders recognized the corruption of man and sought to press men to be responsible to God. The French ignored the corruption of man and elevated man's opinion of himself to a god-like authority.

Ps 33:12 Blessed *is* the nation whose God *is* the LORD; *and* the people *whom* he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

Ps 144:15 Happy *is that* people, that is in such a case: *yea*, happy *is that* people, whose God *is* the LORD.

Now some might quickly object with some claim to a separation of church and state. When Thomas Jefferson made reference to this, it was only in a private letter that actually only sought to assure the Danbury Baptist Association that the First Amendment could not be used by government *against* the free practice of religion, not the ability to *restrict* the free practice of it. Faith and government were well mixed from the founding of America. Make no mistake about it. The choice is not Theism vs. Atheism. The choice is not between having Jehovah God as Lord or not having any god at all.

There is not a Theistic/Secular choice. There is *only* a *theistic* choice. The real choice is always between Jehovah as God or Man as god. The two systems were categorically opposite of each other: realism about God and man vs. idealism about man as god. That is the same struggle we face today as has been revealed by the visceral reaction to the recent Supreme Court regarding abortion. Keep in mind that they did not say that abortion was now illegal. No right was given or retracted, neither created or destroyed. What they said was that abortion is not a *Constitutional* issue and so the 10th Amendment applied, that it was a concern of each state. The reaction is a reflection of man acting as god.

There are those who work hard at conditioning society to think in terms of being responsible to self and not to even bother thinking about God. Those who are responsible only to self become the judge of what is right and wrong according to what makes sense to their limited, often emotionally driven, perceptions. This mentality was the core of a CNN political commentator who, in effect, was acting as god.

I have a family with a lot of special needs kids. I have a brother who's 57, and has the mental and the motor skills of a one-year-old. And I know what that means financially, emotionally, physically, for a family, and I know not all families can do it," she added.

"And I have a step-granddaughter who was born with Downs syndrome, and you know what? It is very difficult in Florida to get services. It is not as easy as it sounds on paper and I've got another, another step-grandson who is very autistic, who has autism," she continued.

"Mothers, and people in that society in that community will tell you that they've considered suicide because that's how

difficult it is to get help. Because that's how lonely they feel. Because they can't get other jobs, because they have financial issues, because of the care that they are unable to give their other children," Navarro said.

[She] went on to claim that she could compartmentalize her Catholic beliefs away from her political support for abortion.

"And so why can I be Catholic and still think it is a wrong decision? Because I'm American. I'm Catholic inside the church, I'm Catholic when it comes to me. But there's a lot of Americans who are not Catholic and they're not Christian, and they're not Baptist," she said.

"And you have no **** right to tell them what they should do with their bodies!" she concluded. "Nobody does!"¹

You are a Christian *whether or not* you are in church. God is God everywhere. What the reporter was saying was that the value of her challenged family members' depends on *her*. She is saying they have no intrinsic value. She does not acknowledge that all they need to have value is the fact that they are human beings created in God's image. What she did was reveal the true mentality of the abortion industry. The commentator's remarks are but a *sample* of *equally* misguided argumentation.

Again, the point here is that either God is the measure of righteousness or man's self-interest is the measure of righteousness.

2. Happy *Dependence* Day

Preachers have often made a play on the reference to the Declaration of *Independence* and called for a Declaration of *Dependence*, or dependence on God. Baptists in

¹<https://www.theblaze.com/news/ana-navarro-cites-her-disabled-relatives-to-defend-abortion-and-people-are-horrified-2657560864>

American history were instrumental in encouraging the freedom of religion and a government with no state church. We are guaranteed the right to the *pursuit* of happiness. In our liberty, each one is responsible for his own stand before God. But, this does not mean that America has not been a Christian nation. If by Christian nation you mean a nation with an official church, then no, we are not a Christian nation. If by a Christian nation you mean a nation that has been formed and is characterized by Christian ideals and virtues, then we are most decidedly a Christian nation. As we are a people whose God is Jehovah, then we will not only pursue happiness but we will find happiness.

We do not just seek to embrace a political philosophy. We need to turn to God in repentance. We must be very careful to notice that whatever ideals we have they must be founded on our relationship with Christ or they are so much smoke. The Creator that was recognized in forming this nation founded on righteous liberty needs to be embraced.

2Chr 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Abraham Lincoln reflected this when he spoke of that government of the people, by the people, and for the people. These words taken out of context might appear to be promoting a humanistic philosophy founding the authority of government on man. In the context of the Gettysburg address, though, we see that Lincoln related the government of the people to that which had been conceived "four score and seven years" earlier by the Declaration of Independence which recognized the *Creator* who made all men equal. Lincoln did not just suggest a human authority for government. What he said in full was, "that this nation,

under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious People. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." - John Adams, Second President of the United States

"God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever." - Thomas Jefferson, Third President of the United States

Prov 23:10-11 Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless:
11For their redeemer *is* mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee.

Remove not the ancient landmarks of repentance and faith in God that defined our nation. By teaching our children the true foundation of being one nation *under God*, grateful for the responsibility He has bestowed upon us rather than stewing in how unfair everything is will save us.

Don't try to change the history of your country. Don't try to put this revisionist movement into motion in our schools and lie about what our past is, what our country is. Don't go into the fields of children [specifically in our schools] because the Redeemer is mighty and he will plead their cause against you. I think that this is where we are at as a nation today in America, that we are actually invoking the ire of God Himself....I don't know

how that is going to look but I don't want to be standing in the pathway of God when He finally says this is enough of perverting the children of this nation, enough of baptizing them in immorality and a false world view and a false perspective on your own history...You have to help parents get back and involved in what your children are learning in the schools and if they can't take their children out of that environment at least counter the lies that are being propagated to try to form their minds...in a twisted way that they don't really understand. [There was] incredible power and blessing that came on this nation, and God is willing to give us to go into the future if we are willing to reconcile to Him and to one another. In my viewpoint, this is the crux of the whole matter.²

We celebrate the *vision* of America and the vision of America was good. Our most basic founding document contains what should be one of the most commonly known statement that undergirds all that follows, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that **they are endowed by their Creator** with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." This statement reflects the fact that our whole vision is based on the Creator. When we stand for the flag of the United States of America, we stand to the *ideals* of liberty that are founded *in the righteous character of God*. If you look at the past through the lens of grievance then you will never be satisfied.

Isa 55:2 Wherefore do ye spend money for *that which* is not bread? and your labour for *that*

²https://prayvotestand.org/get.cfm?c=PVS_VIDEOS&playItem=WC21F03

which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye *that which is* good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

Israel's focus on their dissatisfaction led them to tempt the Lord.

Exod 16:3 And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, *and* when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

It is hard to write a document that articulates a constitution, or what defines the nature of an organization. This is why it is so difficult to write a Statement of Faith for a church. Anything that declares your belief will be subjected to petty criticism. This is why we teach that our Statement of Faith is helpful but it is not God-breathed. The only thing that we *can* actually declare is absolutely what we believe is found in the Bible itself. With this in mind we can imagine the difficulty that the framers of our Declaration of Independence and the Constitution had.

The founding documents of this country represent the genius of the founders. It is a genius that was born of a centuries long line of philosophical and political debate and examination. But, even the founders knew that they could not have anticipated every possible situation and so wrote into it the ability to amend it, which was also a move of genius. They also knew that amendments should not be made on a whim and so set a high bar to be able to do so; and amend it we have. If there was any clarification to be made, the process of amendment has been available.

3. Fill your mouth with praises to God, not complaints

There are those who feed the propaganda machine who seek to cast

aside the promise of the potential of those ideals. They denigrate the foundry of history that forged the freedom of this country. Their complaint is that the government created by those ideals has not produced a utopia. They are deeply conflicted because they want to acknowledge those ideals are high while disdaining them. They want to say that the founding ideas of this country could not have been so great because they were used as tools of oppression. Instead of building on and being vigilant to apply those ideals, they want to cancel them altogether.

The issue, however, is not how successful man is in carrying out those ideals. Such people do not understand the whole nature of a vision. Instead of living up to a vision, they nurture a grudge as they focus on their grievances. Their grievance based movement carries a poison pill in it. Whatever plans man conceives to satisfy their lusts, there will be new groups who will be offended and want *their* lusts to be taken care of. Some of the latest solutions to social disparities have only produced new grievance groups. The opposite of Theism is not Atheism, but modern *Humanism*. The way nan centered communism has dealt with inconvenient classes has been to cancel by death, according to some reports, between 60 and 150 million people. No government can satisfy the lusts of its people.

Instead of focusing on what we don't have, focus on what we *do* have in the Lord!

Ps 71:8 Let my mouth be filled
with thy praise *and with* thy
honour all the day.

Phil 2:13-16 For it is God which
worketh in you both to will and
to do of *his* good pleasure.

14Do all things without
murmurings and disputings:

15That ye may be blameless and
harmless, the sons of God,
without rebuke, in the midst of a
crooked and perverse nation,
among whom ye shine as lights

in the world;

16Holding forth the word of life;
that I may rejoice in the day of
Christ, that I have not run in vain,
neither laboured in vain.

America was founded on a Godly vision. The very nature of a vision is something that is impossible to fulfill. Whatever degree of fulfillment you *do* reach cannot sustain itself. It has become quite fashionable that whenever you refer to America you have to tack on a little disclaimer, "America is not perfect, but..." or, "America's past is filled with sin, but..." We do not need to add a disclaimer. The American ideals are just fine. We just need to apply them by seeking out the Lord.

Deut 4:29-31 But if from thence
thou shalt seek the LORD thy
God, thou shalt find *him*, if thou
seek him with all thy heart and
with all thy soul.

30When thou art in tribulation,
and all these things are come
upon thee, *even* in the latter days,
if thou turn to the LORD thy
God, and shalt be obedient unto
his voice;

31(For the LORD thy God *is* a
merciful God;) he will not
forsake thee, neither destroy thee,
nor forget the covenant of thy
fathers which he sware unto
them.

1Chr 28:9 And thou, Solomon
my son, know thou the God of
thy father, and serve him with a
perfect heart and with a willing
mind: for the LORD searcheth all
hearts, and understandeth all the
imaginings of the thoughts: if
thou seek him, he will be found
of thee; but if thou forsake him,
he will cast thee off for ever.

Prov 8:17 I love them that love
me; and those that seek me early
shall find me.

Before you can do your part to

promote the freedom this country was founded on, you have to be free yourself. You have to make sure you are free from the judgment of Hell and are free in Christ to live before God. You have be born again. As believers, we have to make sure we are maintaining our relationship and service to God to help bring this nation forward to righteousness.

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