

Faith Christian Fellowship
July 3, 2016
Independence Day 2016
Self-evident Truths

TEXT: Psalms 33:10-22

July 4 1776, a remarkable document declaring our separation from the British crown: **Read the Declaration of Independence**

- 1) We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,
 - a) Men are created to bear the mark of their creator. Gen 1:26-27
 - i) He made them male and female
 - ii) He gave them dominion over His creation
 - iii) After the fall, the powerful enforced their rule on the weak. Gen 6:5 (Man without God is inherently evil. That is why we have a three-part government. We are not to be governed by one man's opinion.)
 - b) Each of us is equal
 - i) Before God: Rom 3:23; John 3:16-19
 - ii) Before the law: Proverbs 17:15 / 29:4, 14
- 2) God (not government) has given us certain unalienable rights: **The purpose** of government is to secure these rights
 - a) Life – The question in the so-called right to life is not whether we will die, but who will determine when and how. That is not the purview of government.
 - i) Government is not God, and therefore has no right to end my life.
 - ii) Government is here to protect the right to live.
 - b) Liberty – Who determines what I can and cannot do? What I can and cannot say? Where I can and cannot go?
 - i) The majority does not rule in this area. My unalienable right to liberty rules. This is why we are not just a democracy. We are a constitutional republic.
 - ii) The government as an apparatus does not give me freedom. It is here to protect the freedom that God gave me.
 - c) Pursuit of happiness – 3 John 2
 - i) I have a right to pursue happiness as I see it.
 - ii) Neither government nor other people are arbiters of what happiness means to me.
 - iii) Government exists to remove obstacles to my pursuit and to curb the incursions of those who would hinder us.
- 3) Our job: **God gave it; we have to keep it.**
 - a) Monitor government and change it if necessary
 - i) **Pray** for leaders – 1 Tim 2:1-4
 - ii) **Educate** yourself on issues –
 - (1) Proverbs 18:2 NLT Fools have no interest in understanding; they only want to air their own opinions.
 - (2) Proverbs 9:9 NLT Instruct the wise, and they will be even wiser. Teach the righteous, and they will learn even more.
 - iii) **Vote** in elections – Do the things that are offered as means of redress of grievances.
 - iv) Be willing to **take a principled stand**. Acts 5:29 NLT But Peter and the apostles replied, "We must obey God rather than any human authority.
 - b) **July 4, 2016:** Decide how important life and liberty are to you:
 - c) Are you ready to pledge?
 - i) Life – for what are you willing to die?
 - ii) Fortune – What are you willing to pay?
 - iii) Sacred honor:
 - (1) Honor: to be held in high esteem for traits of character including fairness, honesty, and integrity. A high reputation for character.
 - (2) Sacred: held in reverence
 - (3) Sacred honor indicates the esteem in which they held. their integrity. They are pledging to stay the course as a matter of honor. Proverbs 11:3 / 22:1
 - iv) Are there yet members of society who hold freedom, life, and equality as values to live and die for as a matter of honor, not mere economic convenience?