

Independence Day

Celebrate our freedom

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. 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. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly, all experience has shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing the same object, evinces a design to reduce them to absolute Tyranny, under the pretence of benefiting them, it is the duty of the wise to be alerted, and it is their right that they should oppose to such a course, a manly and firm resistance. This we have a right and shall be glad to do at any time, when our peaceful petitions for redress have been vainly presented to our superiors in Authority. We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled, solemnly publish and declare, that these United States are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connections with Great Britain are hereby totally dissolved. That the Prince of Wales, King of Great Britain, his heirs and successors, are hereby excommunicated from the Kingdom of Great Britain, and that the said Prince of Wales, King of Great Britain, his heirs and successors, are hereby declared to be enemies of the said United States of America, and that all persons who shall adhere to or support the said King, his heirs and successors, shall be deemed enemies of the said United States of America, and shall be liable to the same treatment as enemies of the said United States of America. In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals, this fourth day of July, 1776.

Good Citizens

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, **14** or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evil doers and the praise of those who do right. **15** For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. **16** Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bond slaves of God. **17** Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, and honor the king.

(1st Peter 2: 13-17)

Good Citizens

“Remember that Roman Law crucified Christ and persecuted the early Christians: yet Rome boasted loudly about justice. It sounds like modern America where religion – that is the preaching of the Word of God – is very politely being suppressed. Are we to rebel against the government? No. We are to obey the laws of the land.”

“The relationship of the believer to other people is a testimony which speaks louder than the message from the pulpit.”

J. Vernon McGee

The American Experiment

For the Lord is our judge (**Judicial**), The Lord is our lawgiver (**Legislative**), The Lord is our king (**Executive**); He will save us.

(Isaiah 33:32)

The people who founded this country had a comprehensive Biblical World View and this verse in Isaiah was very much in the minds of the founders when they decided to begin this American experiment. Hence, the 3 branches of government.

Biblical World View

20...let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him. **21** It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding. **22** It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness and the light dwells with Him.

(Daniel 2:20-22)

Founder's Quotes

“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports...reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.”

George Washington

“...without religion there can be no virtue, without virtue, there can be no liberty.”

“...Christianity is the only true and perfect religion.”

Benjamin Rush

First Surgeon General

“Statesmen, Dear Sir, may plan and speculate for liberty, but it is Religion and morality alone, which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand.”

John Adams

Founder's Quotes Continued

“Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters.”

Ben Franklin

“...no truth is more evident to my mind than that the Christian Religion must be the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people.”

Noah Webster

Quote from an Outside Observer

“The Americans combine the notions of Christianity and liberty so intimately in their minds that it is impossible to make them conceive one without the other. The religious atmosphere of the country was the first thing that struck me upon my arrival in the U.S. In France, I had seen the spirit of religion and freedom almost always marching in opposite directions. In America, I found them intimately linked together. Religion should therefore be considered the first of their political institutions. From the start, politics and religion have agreed and have not since ceased to do so.”

Alexis De Tocqueville

Still true? No. What happened?

World Views

“There is a flow to history and culture. This flow is rooted and has its wellspring in the thoughts of people. People are unique in the inner life of the mind – what they are in their thought world determines how they act. This is true of their value systems and it is true of their creativity. It is true of their corporate actions, such as political decisions, and it is true of their personal lives. The results of their thought world flow through their fingers or from their tongues into the external world. This is true of Michelangelo’s chisel, and it is true of a dictator’s sword.”

Francis Schaeffer

World Views

Be careful what you think, because your thoughts run your life.

(Proverbs 4:23 Phillips)

...we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. (2 Cor. 10:5 NASB)

...be transformed by the renewing of you mind. (Rom. 12:2 NASB)

Different World View

The question, “Did God really say?” was asked in the garden.

(Genesis 3:1)

An elaborate, imaginative, clever way of asking the question, “Did God really say?,”
The “Origin of Species,” was published in
1859

Charles Darwin

Different World View

“Faith in the prayer hearing God is an unproved and out moded faith. There is no God and there is no soul. Hence, there are no needs for the props of traditional religion. With dogma and creed excluded, then immutable truth is also dead and buried. There is no room for fixed natural law or moral absolutes.”

John Dewey

Different World View

Self Actualization is at the pinnacle of human need. (paraphrase)

Abraham Maslow

The first ever example of self actualization was Lucifer. The next two examples were Adam and Eve.

Different World View

The views of Dewey and Maslow are at the very heart of the design of modern education, especially at the collegiate level.

Harvard's original motto : "Truth for Christ and the Church"

Harvard's motto now : "VERITAS" or just "Truth"

Different World view

“The secular humanistic **system of values (religion)** has now become the predominant way of thinking in most of the power centers of society. It has outstripped the Judeo-Christian precepts in the universities, in the news media, in the entertainment industry, in the judiciary, in the federal bureaucracy, in business, medicine, law, psychology, sociology, in the arts, in many public schools and, to be sure, in the halls of Congress.”

James Dobson

Warning!

2 that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, **3** in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. **4** I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument...

(Colossians 2: 2-4; 6-8)

Warning!

6 Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, **7** having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed and overflowing with gratitude. **8** See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

(Colossians 2: 2-4; 6-8)

Warning!

“In the beginning of the contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible to danger, we had daily prayers in this room for Divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard and they were graciously answered. Have we now forgotten that powerful friend? Do we imagine that we no longer need his assistance?...I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the more convincing proofs I see of this truth – God governs in the affairs of men.

Ben Franklin - 1787

Warning!

And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aide? We have been assured in the sacred writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this...we shall be divided on our little partial, local interests; our projects will be confounded and we ourselves will become a reproach and bye word down to future ages.”

Ben Franklin - 1787

Warning!

“...we have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God who made us...”

Abraham Lincoln – 1863

Warning!

“...we confess we have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and called it pluralism. We have worshipped other gods and called it multiculturalism. We have endorsed perversion and called it alternative life style. We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery. We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. We have killed our unborn and called it choice. We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.

Reverend Joe Wright - 1996

Warning!

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it self-esteem. We have abused power and called it politics. We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment."

Reverend Joe Wright - 1996

Battle Plan for Freedom

Remember:

5...remember from where you have fallen ...
(Revelation 2:5) **12**...our struggle is not
against flesh and blood... against the
spiritual forces **(false ideas)** ... **(Ephesians
6:12)**

37...For this I have been born and for this I
have come into the world, to testify of the
TRUTH. **(John 18:37)**

Repent:

14... turn from their wicked ways...
(2 Chron.7:14)

Battle Plan for Freedom

Return:

19...make disciples ...20 teaching them to observe **all that I commanded you ...
(Matt. 28:19-20)**

Pray:

**17...pray without ceasing...
(1 Thess. 5:17) (2 Chron. 7:14)**