

Introduction:

We just celebrated the 4th of July and the signing of The Declaration of Independence.

“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 is an amazing document because it was the start of a new independent nation. Today we look to the Cross of Christ and His words for our independence and what it means to us.

I) Independence From

A) Bondage, servitude, tyranny

1. The Declaration of Independence was created because of the unfair treatment from the King of England. Taxation without representation; trial by jury, etc.
2. Mankind was in bondage to sin and its consequences.
 - a. Sin can define us,

1 Corinthians 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to

retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

b. He is an adulterer, she is a liar, they are idolaters, etc.

3. Sin will condemn us.

B) To desire independence there must be the realization of the need for it.

1. In the case of England there were actions which showed oppression.

2. There were those in the time of Jesus who did not see the need for independence from bondage.

a. ***John 8:34*** ***Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.***

b. Today many people equate sin with freedom. Freedom to get drunk, to be immoral, to be hateful, etc.

- c. ***Romans 6:19. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.***

C) To receive independence from sin

1. Desire plus action. In the case of U.S. independence there were those who did what was necessary, i.e. soldiers, leaders.
2. What does it take to be free from sin?
 - a. ***Colossians 1:19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.***
 - b. Then we must be willing to bear our cross. ***Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.***

II) Independence Presents Opportunity

A) To do either good or bad

1. Famous quote from Benjamin Franklin when asked by a woman about what kind of government we have. "A republic, if you can keep it."
2. The fact is the throwing off of tyranny of England did not mean there would be freedom.

- a. We could of replace the King of England with our own version of a King.
 - b. We could have simply had a ruling family like Saudi Arabia.
3. In Christ we have independence from sin but we can elect to serve Him or remain sin.

Romans 6:16 *Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? 17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*

B) To elect to serve God

1. Must refrain from sin, ***1 John 1:3*** *that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. 5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.*
2. To do good works. ***Ephesians 2:10*** *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

- a. Worshipping God in spirit and truth
 - b. Helping orphans and widows
 - c. Bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, etc.
3. There must be the conscious decision to do those things or else they won't happen.

III) Independence Means Accountability

A) **The Signers of Declaration realized they would be held accountable.**

1. We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately. [Benjamin Franklin](#)
2. Today there is a lot of folks wanting to tear down statues. Some were slave owners, some fought for the South during the Civil War, and some I don't have any idea of why they want to tear them down, i.e. Abraham Lincoln.
 - a. See this with celebrates and what they said or did in times past.
 - b. Black faces, sexual jokes, drug usage, etc.
3. It is a scary thing to think of what you did years ago will come back to haunt you. People in college registering with the communist party as a joke.

B) **We are accountable**

1. For every thing we say. ***Matthew 12:36 "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment."***
 - a. Isn't that a scary thought. Every word said in anger, every crude joke, every curse word.

- b. Every false charge, false doctrine, etc.
- 2. For every deed done whether good or bad.
 - a. **2 Corinthians 5:10** *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*
 - b. The books being open in Revelation. **Revelation 20:12** *And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.*
- 3. Our example. How we behave towards others.
 - a. I knew a school teacher who recorded her class one day with the intention of letting the parents know how their children were behaving. She listened and erased the tape. Why? Because of how she sounded.
 - b. As Christians we are representing Christ. Some people will judge Christ just by our example. We are the "World's Bible."
- 4. We are to follow our Lord.
- 5. Of course the difference in accountability with man is we might forget, or someone might just say "forget it." Then some might never forgive no matter what you do.
- 6. With God there is perfect memory, He won't just forget. But there is forgiveness that is complete. **Romans 4:7** *"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,*

And whose sins are covered; 8 Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin."

Conclusion:

Independence came at a price in the American Revolution, 6,800 men. Our Independence from sin, the blood of Christ. To keep have it one must come to Christ and live faithfully to His word.