

Independence Day

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Declaration of Independence IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776. The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, 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.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to **the Supreme Judge of the world** for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies 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 connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of **divine Providence**, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

This founding document of our nation appealed explicitly to God for the rights and authority to establish this new nation, for the equality of all men to pursue life, liberty and happiness, for the righteousness needed in their intentions, and for the protection of God as the new nation is formed. This is the same appeals we make to God today on behalf of our nation.

But, what if we had been born in another country under a different kind of government with less freedoms and opportunities than we enjoy? What would be our obligation?

“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given at the proper time. And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles.” (1 Tim.2:1-7)

So as we celebrate our Independence Day what should the Christian do?

- Pray for all especially our leaders. WHY?
 - Hebrews 13:17, “Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you.”
- Include thanksgiving in our prayers including for our leaders. WHY?
 - Because if you can find something in them to be thankful for you will see some redeeming value, and will not only be critical of them.
- Set the example of a peaceful, quiet, godly, and holy life. WHY?
 - If we are going to pray for our leaders to help us have a peaceful and quiet and holy life, then we must show others we mean to live that way.
- Acknowledge that God wants everyone in our nation to be saved. WHY?
 - Because if we do, then we will treat everyone like God and we want to spend an eternity with them.
 - And we will give every person, no matter who they are, an opportunity to hear the gospel.
- Promote truth, especially the truth about Jesus, and shun lies. WHY?
 - There is no greater truth to tell and when we lie we make it difficult for anyone to hear us when we speak the truth. (Be careful what you post)
- Tell people there is only one mediator between man and God. WHY?
 - So that your fellow citizens will not settle for a lower court. We want justice, let go to the one who can provide justice and did on the cross.
- Tell people they have been ransomed-given their freedom through Christ. WHY?
 - So that when freedoms in this life slip away people will not feel like they have lost the most important freedom.
 - So others will know that even if they lose all earthly freedom, the one freedom that matters the most cannot be taken away.
- Fulfill your mission to be an instrument used by God to spread the message. WHY?
 - Because the only hope for a world and nation in confusion are the people of God who know what their mission is and are always On Mission.

- If the forces that want to tear us apart can mobilize to steal, kill and destroy, then the disciples of Jesus can unite to be the answer in the darkness.

These eight mandates are sorely needed in our country right now. This has been laid on the church to carry out.

It is the mission of the Central Church of Christ to lead people to have an authentic and growing relationship with God the Father and with others through His Son Jesus Christ.

Opening:

Communion Cups

Covid Update:

As the cases of Covid 19 rise with more freedom within our society, there is a need to continue to take precautions. Those who are attending our services must wear masks (masks provided), distance 6 feet even when fellowshiping, and go outside after services are over. It is the responsibility of your shepherds to do everything reasonable to keep you safe and to protect others. We understand there are differing opinions on these matters, and that is why someone has to make the call. The buck stops here! Thanks for your cooperation.

Upcoming Discipleship Trainings:

Wednesday at 6:30: The Christian Mindset in a Culture of Chaos

Friday at 11:00 AM: The Mind of Christ