

## Freedom

**“[July 4th] ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty.”**

*—John Adams in a letter written to Abigail on the day the Declaration was approved by Congress*

On this date, 230 years ago, fifty-six men, representing thirteen colonies signed the Declaration of Independence with a single intent: To form an independent country “under God.”

How can we read this quote from John Adams and assume that our founding fathers intended for these United States to be anything but a Christian nation? John Adams, signor of the Declaration of Independence and second President of the United States, had a definite idea how July 4<sup>th</sup> should be celebrated. His letter to his wife Abigail shows complete confidence of the Sovereign influence over the document he had just signed.

Lest we still fall into the trap of believing the United States was not intended to be a Christian nation, let us examine the introduction of the document they actually signed:

### **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...

Thomas Jefferson, another signor of the Declaration of Independence and the third President of the United States, is credited with wording this document. Ironically, Thomas Jefferson is also credited with defining the “doctrine” of the separation of Church and State. I find it interesting that the courts of this great nation can take one obscure statement from one personal letter, from Thomas Jefferson, out of context and create an entire legal doctrine.

I think it is more beneficial to know just what Thomas Jefferson actually said regarding the formation of this Nation.

**“God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift from God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, and that His justice cannot sleep forever.”**

(excerpts are inscribed on the walls of the Jefferson Memorial in the nations capital.) From Jefferson's Notes on the State of Virginia, Query XVIII, 1781.

As I think about this great country, I realize that the only way I can understand what freedom truly means is to know true freedom in Jesus Christ. The freedoms I enjoy as an American are only a small sample of the freedom I have as a citizen of Heaven.

**John 8:36: If the Son shall make you free, you are free indeed.**

That is a clear statement of true freedom. Not only that, this freedom is a free gift.

**Romans 5:15-18: But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For it through the offence of one many be dead, much more he grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgement was by one condemnation by the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.**

Looks like Jesus understood freedom's true plan, long before 1776. However, just in case we still have lingering doubts that this nation was founded as a Christian Nation, let's hear from a few of the other signors of the Declaration of Independence.

**"We Recognize No Sovereign but God, and no King but *Jesus!*"** John Hancock and John Adams April 18, 1775

**"He who made all men hath made the truths necessary to human happiness obvious to all... Our forefathers opened the Bible to all."** Samuel Adams  
"American Independence," August 1, 1776. Speech delivered at the State House in Philadelphia

**"Christianity is part of the common law"** James Wilson

**"I lament that we waste so much time and money in punishing crimes and take so little pains to prevent them...we neglect the only means of establishing and perpetuating our republican forms of government; that is, the universal education of our youth in the principles of Christianity by means of the Bible; for this Divine Book, above all others, constitutes the soul of republicanism." "By withholding the knowledge of [the Scriptures] from children, we deprive ourselves of the best means of awakening moral sensibility in their minds."** Benjamin Rush [Letter written (1790's) in Defense of the Bible in all schools in America]

At 70 years of age, Benjamin Franklin was the eldest to sign the Declaration of Independence. At this time in his life, he was a well respected gentleman and an extremely wealthy man. None of us would think less of a man of his wealth, at 70, retiring. Instead, Benjamin Franklin saw a greater calling, the formation of a free nation, for generations that now live.

Benjamin Franklin said many great things in the formative years of the United States. However, two stand out as defining his dependence on the Sovereign God, to guide an independent nation. Both were delivered at the Constitutional Convention of 1787, when he was 81 years of age.

**“God governs in the affairs of man. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? 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. I also believe that, without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel”** –*Constitutional Convention of 1787*

**“In the beginning of the contest with Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayers in this room for Divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered... do we imagine we no longer need His assistance?”** [Constitutional Convention, Thursday June 28, 1787]

The wisdom, of the elder Statesman at the Constitutional Convention, flies in the face of those that seek to separate God from our country's history.

Happy Birthday America!!!!!!

This year, I think I will follow the advice of John Adams and give praise to God for the freedoms we have through Jesus Christ and in these United States.

God Bless America!!!!!!