The Declaration of Independence: Second Paragraph

“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.”

Since 1776 there have been approximately 120 declarations of independence made by different countries and different people.

Monticello.org

“Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”

President Abraham Lincoln Gettysburg Address 1863

“I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘we hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.’ “

Martin Luther King 1963

“We believe – and we believe it so deeply that Americans know these words by heart – we believe that all men are created equal.”

President Ronald Reagan in China 1984

“What makes us exceptional – what makes us American – is our allegiance to an idea articulated in a declaration made more than two centuries ago: ‘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.’ “

President Barack Obama Second Inaugural Address

We Hold These Truths to Be Self-Evident

Romans 1:18&19 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

2 Peter 3:3-6 Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.

We Believe That All Men Are Created

Acts 17:24-26 “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everything life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.”

Matthew 19:4 “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female.’ “

We Believe That All Men Are Created Equal

Romans 2:11(NASB) For there is no partiality with God.

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Unequally Evolved

We believe we are equal because we are **CREATED** equal. If humans are simply the highest life form in a continuum that starts with bacteria and continues to evolve today, then some are more highly evolved than others, and that makes those who are less evolved not equal to those who are more evolved.

“At some future period, not very distant as measured by centuries, the civilized races of man will almost certainly exterminate and replace throughout the world the savage races. At the same time the anthropomorphous apes, as Professor Schaafhausen has remarked, will no doubt be exterminated. The break will then be rendered wider, for it will intervene between man in a more civilized state as we may hope, than the Caucasian and some ape as low as a baboon, instead of as at present between the Negro or Australian and the gorilla.”

The Descent of Man by Charles Darwin, 1871 (95 years after the Declaration of Independence)

Endowed with Unalienable Rights by Their Creator

“that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness,”

A direct contradiction to the prevailing idea in European politics at the time that since God is the One who ultimately puts kings in power, something that the Book of Daniel explicitly teaches, that disobedience to the king was always in essence disobedience to God.

Unalienable means impossible to take away or give up – inalienable. Merriam-Webster online Dictionary.

The Rights to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness are God-given, not given by the government, and therefore the government has no power to take them away. Scripturally, government has the power to take life or end liberty as the due punishment of a crime, but not as punishment for dissent (Romans 13:1-7). The PURSUIT of Happiness is a God-given right, not happiness itself.

Governments Exist to Secure These Rights

“That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,”

This was a totally radical idea for its time. The Greek City States were sometimes democracies, and Rome was originally a republic, but those were long since gone, and monarchies were the order of the day.

Some Things to Think About

Our most widely known and quoted founding document says that it is self-evident that all men are created equal.

It says our fundamental rights come from our Creator.

We have transitioned to a culture that has largely seriously diluted these concepts (theistic evolution) or abandoned them altogether (atheistic evolution), in spite of the mounting evidence that evolution as a theory is seriously flawed.

Many Americans are very concerned about the erosion of the rights of religious freedom and freedom of speech, but if these rights are given by governmental decree, not endowed by our Creator, if the whole idea of created equal is an outmoded concept, if we are just highly evolved pond scum, it seems to me that we are fighting to preserve a building after its foundation has been destroyed.

If we are to change the course of our nation, we need to return to the foundational principles on which it was built.