THINGS OUR FOUNDING FATHERS BELIEVED

It Is Self-evident That God Created Us Equal

“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.”

Romans 1:18-20 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. 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.

Acts 17:36a “From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth;”

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.

Did the Constitution Legitimize Slavery?

The Constitution does not mention race, skin color or any ethnicity. The word slave does not occur in it, neither does the word slavery.

“Four score 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.” The Gettysburg Address by Abraham Lincoln

“(Slavery) is hid away, in the constitution, just as an afflicted man hides away a wen or a cancer, which he dares not cut out at once, lest he bleed to death; with a promise, nevertheless, that the cutting may begin at the end of a given time. Less that this our fathers could not do; and more they would not do. Necessity drove them so far, and further, they would not go. But this is not all. The earlier Congress under the constitution, took the same view of slavery. They hedged and hemmed it in to the narrowest limits of necessity...Thus we see, the plain unmistakable spirt of that age, towards slavery, was hostility to the PRINCIPLE, and toleration, only by necessity.” October 16, 1854, Peoria, Ill. Lincoln responds to Sen. Stephen Douglas on the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. Abraham Lincoln: His Speeches and Writings, edited by Roy Basler.

A wen, according to Merriam-Webster is “an abnormal growth or a cyst protruding from a surface, especially of the skin.”

God Will Judge Not Only Our Actions but Also Our Motives

Revelation 20:12&13 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

I Corinthians 5:5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.

“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…”

The Following Quotes Are From the Church of the Holy Trinity v The United States:

“Articles 36and 37 of the Declaration of Rights of the Constitution of Maryland, 1867: ‘That as it is the duty of every man to worship God in such manner as he thinks most acceptable to Him, all persons are equally entitled to protection in their religious liberty…nor shall any person, otherwise competent, be deemed incompetent as a witness, or juror, on account of his religious belief: *Provided,* He believes in the existence of God, and that, under His dispensation, such persons will be held morally accountable for his acts, and be rewarded or punished therefor, either in this world or the world to come.’””

“Sections 5 of Article 7, of the constitution of Mississippi, 1832: ‘No person who denies the being of a God, or a future state of rewards and punishments, shall hold any office in the civil department of this state.’ ”

Local Churches Are Important as Teachers of Morality

I Timothy 3:14&15 Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

Ephesians 4:20-24 That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.

Hebrews 10:24&25 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Following Quote Is from the Church of the Holy Trinity v The United States

“Articles 2 and 3, of Part 1st, of the Constitution of Massachusetts, 1780: ‘It is the right as well as the duty of all men in society publicly and at stated seasons, to worship the Supreme Being, the great Creator and Preserver of the Universe…As the happiness of a people and the good order and preservation of civil government essentially depend upon piety, religion and morality, and as these cannot be generally diffused through a community but by the institution of the public worship of God and of public instructions in piety, religion and morality: Therefore, to promote their happiness and to secure the good order and preservation of their government, the people of this commonwealth have a right to invest their legislature with power to authorize and require, and the legislature shall, from time to time, authorize and require, the several towns, parishes, precincts and other bodies politic or religious societies to make suitable provision, at their own expense, for the institution of the public worship of God and for the support and maintenance of public Protestant teachers of piety, religion and morality in all cases where such provision shall not be made voluntarily.’ ”

 The following quote is from George Washington’s farewell address, 9/19/1796:

“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness – these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked, Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice? And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.”

The following quote is from George Washington’s First Inaugural Address:

“(S)ince we ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained,..”

Summing Up

Tomorrow we celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence from Great Britain, signed “with a firm reliance upon the protection of divine Providence.”

It contains, and the writings of our Founding Fathers, contain many biblical concepts, that are frequently challenged today:

That all people are created.

That creation is self-evident.

That life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are God-given rights.

That the temporary toleration of slavery in the Constitution does not contradict the fundamental statements of the Declaration of Independence.

That the belief that each of us will have our deeds and motives judged by God is fundamental to the establishment of morality which is fundamental to the preservation of our form of government.

That local churches are essential to the teaching of truth which leads to morality.