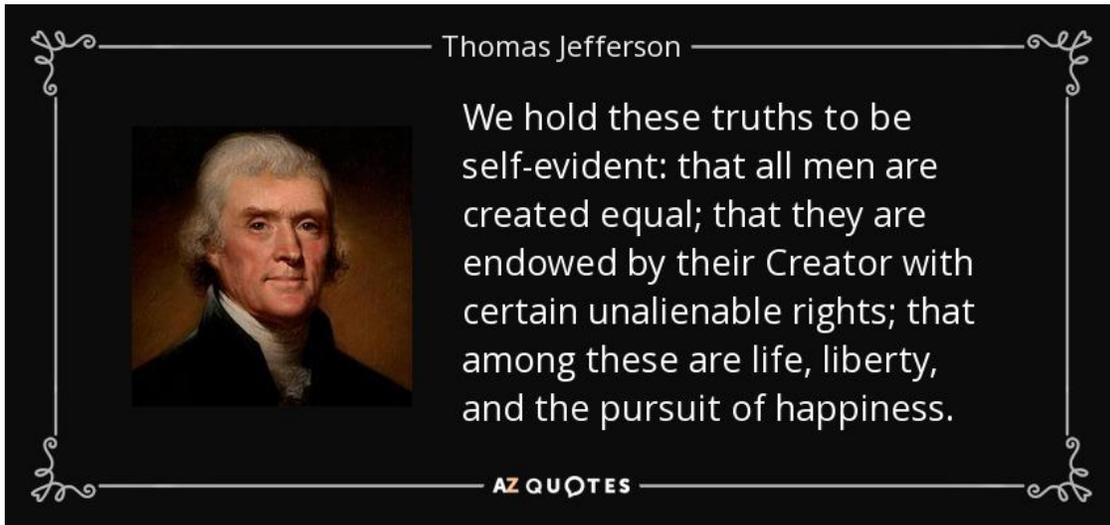


**“We hold these truths to be self-evident”  
20 Objective, universal, fundamental, unchanging Human Rights.**



While our wonderful Republic has not always lived up its stated principles of recognition of unalienable rights for all men, thank God that these ideals are clearly enunciated in our nation's birth certificate, our Declaration of Independence.

I would add that it is extremely important, especially for the Christian, to admit when we as a nation have not been true to these very principles. To ignore, downplay, and excuse violations of natural rights is not only corrosive to the very principles, it excuses evil and allows it to infect our lives.

What I would like to do in this article is to review some of these unalienable self-evident rights from God. Grasping these rights have many implications for ourselves in our own personal interactions with others as well as for our nation as we get ready to celebrate Independence Day.

The unalienable rights of man are based on the nature of man as created by God. Therefore, they are objective and unchanging as the fundamental nature of man is objective and unchanging. Positive (human created) laws come and go, but the natural rights of man are immutable. They include:

1. The right to existence
2. The right to life.
3. The right to personal freedom.
4. The right to conduct one's own life in freedom.
5. The right over one's own acts.
6. The right to pursue the perfection of the intellectual life.
7. The right to pursue the perfection of the moral life.
8. The right to pursue the perfection of the spiritual life.

9. The right to pursue temporal goods.
10. The right to pursue eternal goods.
11. The right over one's own body.
12. The right of private ownership of property.
13. The right to marry according to one's choice
14. The right to raise a family.
15. The right of respect as a human being regardless of economic value.
16. The right to one's own conscience.
17. The right of free speech.
18. The right to protest against a government.
19. The right to worship God as one sees fit.
20. The right to the form a government as a people sees fit.

Let's renew our efforts to treat every human being with the eternal worth that each has due to the nature of man, which bears the image of God. The next time we are tempted to curse fellow human beings, be it presidents Trump or Obama, let us hold our tongues and remember. As Christians, let us never be part of the President Trump bashers or the Maxine Waters bashers--regardless of how what they might say about some of our fellow Americans.

James 3:9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

Romans 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

We Christians above all have the resources to help our country live up to its ideals. Given that the central ethic of Christianity is proper love, Christians above all are to be known for their respect for every single person. After all, Christ thought each person had enough value to sacrificially die for (John 3:16; 1 John 2:2).

In His Matchless Grace,

Pastor Don