



Dependence

We Americans initially placed a high value on independence. Perhaps it is too narrow to chastise only Americans for an undue emphasis on independence. It may be overly important for all people. We celebrate our independence from England on the Fourth of July. Other countries have their special days of independence as well (*Cinco de Mayo for Mexico, etc.*), but I think the day should be kept in perspective and, perhaps, more soberly.

To England (*our Nation's parent*), we may only look like a rebellious teenager who hates being controlled and tries "his wings". I remember watching an interview with a British woman who was asked her opinion about the Bicentennial celebrations in America. She said, "200 years? Really? We have doorknobs that are older than that."

For over 200 years, we have celebrated independence, how long we've been independent, and blazon patriotic symbols and launch firework. That's all fun and



acceptable, but with time comes muddled thinking and, subsequently, symbols overtake substance, words begin to only buzz, music simply conjures no more than a tapping toe or a tear. This season you will likely hear a song which asks a question that we, in our century, can only offer a shameful answer.

"O say does that Star Spangled banner yet wave, o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?"

Today, the answer to this question is, unfortunately, "no". The flag still waves, but over a population who has surrendered their freedom for security, that they are not brave enough to provide on their own. I can't help but feel sorrow for our nation of cowardly slaves. It would behoove us to identify how this happened. It is all rooted in misplaced dependence and independence.

We should never let it slip our minds that our love for independence was fueled by inordinate control and regulation. Our country was full of men and women who loved England and became wistful and saddened at our bloody departure. Although excited about beginning a new life in an adventurous new land, many came here with no intention of separating from their beloved England. It was control that began to worry them.

England had too much control.

I'm afraid the teenager analogy is dreadfully appropriate. Who of us does not remember as a teenager, the elated fear that came with freedom, those first few days of "independence"? The drunkenness of freedom from a superior's control invites lawlessness.

Yet and Still.

Who does not feel the comfort upon returning home if only for a visit and feeling the care of parents, and the love of those who were once responsible for our welfare? The sight of my daughter, no longer a child by any means, asleep and worry-free, if only for an afternoon on her daddy's couch, makes me as proud and happy as any achievement of her outstanding ability to make her own way in the world without dependence upon her father.

We must admit, we like them both.

Both independence and dependence must be sought and balanced in our pursuit of wholeness.

We must strive to be dependent but not to the point of entitlement. We must strive to be independent and yet not forgetting the cost of freedom that must be paid by either ourselves or others.

Dependence can strip us of dignity, promote laziness and make hope of self-reliance a pipe dream, but independence can leave us a little wild, a little careless, a little arrogant.

What's the answer - the middle ground?

We must strive to be content with that which is provided us... not spoiled and demanding, nor rebellious and unruly. *"But godliness with contentment is great gain...and having food and raiment let us be therewith content."* 1 Timothy 6

Independence is not ignoble if it is exercised against those whose control is motivated in wickedness. Dependence is honorable to both those who govern and provide, and those who humbly receive.

If the concept of independence is held alone as an achievement, it can only leave a person in a state of proud, smug and overconfident non-reliance. This particular characteristic is glaringly absent in the list of *"The fruit of the Spirit"* (Galatians 5).

To depend upon, is to rely upon.

Is there someone more worthy of our reliance than our God, YHVH? If we detach ourselves from controlling governments, dominating people... upon whom WILL we

depend if not our God? It is established we desire some dependence. Perhaps Jesus was aware of this when He said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Dependence is undoubtedly a form of servitude, but is it not the "slavery" to which we are enjoined? Have we any other prospects of such a meek and lowly Master who has all power, both in Heaven and Earth?

As Christians, let's cherish dependence - for we may well be the only ones on Earth with such a worthy benefactor. Let us fear and, yes, even despise independence as the self-aggrandizing pride that it will eventually become in our possession.

We call it "independence."

Rebellion, seeking our own selfish way, will not provide the security we seek. Isn't it strange that when we depend upon only ourselves, our money, our strength, our wits, we never consider that as dependence.

Our God on the other hand promises that dependence upon Him is mankind's true independence.

Let's frantically claw and climb and find the lap of our Master and place ourselves like sleepy curled kittens in His mighty hand.



Friendly,

"Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer: thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am..." Isaiah 58

TRI Dependence* Day Celebration!



You're invited to
"Fellowship, Fireworks & Falderal"
in Pie Town, New Mexico!
June 30 to July 4th, 2017

(*not a typo.)

"I'm looking for you..."
[Click here to RSVP!](#)

Perhaps we Americans have let independence overshadow dependence. We may be free

from England, but we are not free from our Master. Let's discuss and seek revelation on our responsibilities as Americans and our duties as Christians.

Details: This is camping! It's a great time to visit the mountains...sunny days, cool nights! Please indicate the days & times you will be on the grounds so arrangements can be made for meals and accommodations! Bunk space is limited.

Food: TRI will provide breakfast and the main entree for the evening meals - bring sides and fun food to share! Brown bag lunch (bring your own).

Transportation: Driving? There is 5 miles of dirt-road to the TRI facility. Flying? Let TRI know if you need an airport pickup. Its 3.5 hours to Pie Town from Albuquerque! Book your ride with TRI early...Uber is scarce in this area!

Provisions: Remember, Pie Town is remote...the closest Wal-mart is 80 miles away. Bring what you need for the entire time.

Questions: Events@ThinkRedInk.com

SCHEDULE:

- June 30th: Arrival and setup
- June 30th: 6 pm - Fun at the Fire! Cookout & Fireworks (*Bring your favorites.*)
- July 1st: Solemn Assembly - Day of Rest & Fellowship (*Sabbath*)
- July 2nd: Workday Projects - Evening Fellowship
- July 3rd: Workday Projects - Evening Fellowship
- July 4th: Solemn Assembly - Noon Departure


(Can't attend? Email your "Dependence" thoughts and questions to Don@ThinkRedInk.com)

TRI FEATURED MATERIALS



- "Can Christians be good Americans?"
- "You're going to make a change."
- "I pledge allegiance..."

Request your copy online (PC or Android).
(iPhone/Mac users) Email Info@ThinkRedInk.com

 Like us on Facebook

 Follow us on [twitter](#)

