

Sunday, July 5, 2026

Declaration of Dependence: One Nation Under God

As we gather this July 4th weekend, we celebrate the freedoms and blessings of living in America. We hear much about our “Declaration of Independence,” especially on this the 250th Anniversary, but today, I invite us to consider a different declaration—a “**Declaration of Dependence**.” Not dependence on government, but on God Himself.

But this raises a crucial question for every believer: **How can a Christian balance their supreme allegiance to God with their earthly duty as citizens?**

This is not a new question. God’s people have wrestled with it throughout history:

- **Old Testament Example:**

Psalm 33:12 (KJV) “*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.*”

In [Jeremiah 29:7](#), God’s people are exiles in Babylon—a pagan land. Yet God commands: “*Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.*”

Even in a foreign land, God’s people are called to be good citizens, working for the good of their community.

- **New Testament Example:**

Jesus Himself was asked about loyalty to government.

In [Mark 12:17](#), He replied:

“Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

Jesus affirms that while we have earthly responsibilities, our ultimate allegiance belongs to God, whose image we bear.

Apostolic Teaching:

Paul echoes this in [Romans 13:1-7](#), teaching that government is ordained by God to maintain order, and Christians are to respect authority—unless it conflicts with God’s commands (see also [Acts 5:29](#) “*We must obey God rather than men.*”

So, how do we balance these loyalties?

1. **Recognize God’s Sovereignty:**

All authority flows from God ([Romans 13:1](#)). Our first loyalty is to Him.

2. **Fulfill Earthly Duties:**

We are called to seek the good of our nation and community, to pray for our leaders, and to live honorably ([Jeremiah 29:7](#); [1 Tim. 2:1-2](#)).

3. **Draw the Line at Compromise:**

When earthly demands conflict with God’s commands, we stand firm in faith ([Daniel 3](#); [Acts 5:29](#)).

Today, as we reflect on our nation's founding and our freedoms, let's remember:

Our true declaration is not just of independence, but of dependence—on the One who rules over all nations. Let's explore what it means to live as citizens of heaven while serving faithfully as citizens on earth.

Let's begin by reading these familiar words from the Declaration of Independence:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights. That among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

These words echo deep biblical truths and have shaped the greatest nation in history. But as Christians, we must remember: our ultimate allegiance is not to a flag, but to the cross; not to a nation, but to the Kingdom of God.

I. Four Christian “Self-Evident Truths” in the Declaration

Our founding fathers drew from the Word of God when they wrote these words. Let's consider four “self-evident truths” they believed:

Belief in a Creator

The word “Creator” is capitalized, showing reverence for God.

Genesis 1:1—“*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*”

Created in God's Image

Genesis 1:27—“*So God created man in His own image... male and female He created them.*”

All people have dignity, value, and worth—not because government says so, but because God made it so.

Belief in Supernatural Acts

God is not distant; He acts in history. He gives life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Acts 17:25—“*He Himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.*”

Belief in Moral Absolutes

These are “inalienable rights”—not given by government, but by God.

Psalms 19:7—“*The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.*”

Government's job is not to grant rights, but to recognize and protect the rights God has already given.

II. America's Christian Roots

- **Christians came to America for Christian purposes.**
- **Christians wrote the Declaration and Constitution, grounding them in God's law and absolute truth.**
- **Christianity has been the largest religious influence in America.**

As the knowledge document notes, our founders understood the biblical doctrine of original sin and the need for checks and balances. They knew government must be limited, for only God is truly sovereign (**Romans 13:1-7**).

III. Biblically Based Actions For Christians

1. Seek God for Your Government

Pray for leaders and nation.

1 Timothy 2:1-4—Pray for kings and all in authority.

2 Chronicles 7:14—If my people... will humble themselves and pray... I will heal their land.

2. Support Your Government

Pay taxes and show respect.

Matthew 22:21—“*Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.*”

Romans 13:6-7—Pay taxes, Build relationships with your government, show respect and honor.

3. Submit to Your Government

Obey laws and authorities.

1 Peter 2:13-14—Submit for the Lord's sake to every authority.

4. Stand Up to Your Government (When Necessary)

Civil disobedience is sometimes required.

Thomas Jefferson is quoted as saying: “All tyranny needs to do to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silence.”

Acts 5:29—“*We must obey God rather than men.*”

Biblical examples: Moses, Nathan, Elijah, Isaiah, Amos, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego, John the Baptist, Peter & Paul.

When government commands what God forbids, or forbids what God commands, we must stand for truth—always with love and humility.

Let your voice be heard.

Psalms 107:2—“*Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!*”

Matthew 5:13-16—*Be salt and light in the world.*

5. Select Your Government

Be an informed and active citizen.

- Register to vote.
- Stay informed about candidates and laws.
- Vote according to biblical values and God's wisdom.

Listen to these quotes from two of our Founding Fathers...

“Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote... that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country.”

Samuel Adams – Founding Father

“Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation... to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.” John Jay – Founding Father

“I think it is a disgrace that half the Christians in America aren't even registered to vote, and of those who are, only half go to the polls.” James Dobson

“Our first civic duty is to vote. If you don't vote, you are abandoning the biblical obligation to be a responsible citizen.” Chuck Colson

Conclusion: Our nation was founded on a declaration of independence, but as believers, we make a **Declaration of Dependence**—on God alone. Let us seek Him for our nation, support and submit to our government as far as conscience allows, stand up for truth when needed, and use our freedoms to advance His Kingdom.

A DECLARATION OF DEPENDENCE UPON GOD

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for a people to declare their dependence upon God, and to reaffirm their national Christian covenant to which the laws of God bind them, an appropriate response to God requires that they should declare before mankind the causes which bind them to this covenant. We hold these biblical truths, that all men are created equal, in that they are endowed by their Creator, with certain rights not to be violated by any power foreign or domestic. Among these rights are life, liberty, and property. The possibility of human rights is found only under God, who through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, has set before us either life or death, blessing or cursing, corresponding to our faith and subsequent obedience to His commandments. For as much as it pleased Almighty God by His wise Providence to institute governments among men, God requires that to maintain peace and union of a people there should be an orderly and appropriate Government established according to God's Law. That to secure these rights, to maintain and preserve the liberty and purity of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus which we now profess, this government derives its representation from the people and their representatives have the power to administer justice according to the Word of God.”

<http://www.forerunner.com/statesman/dependence.html> by Jay Rogers May, 2008

Take Away: Let's pray for our leaders, our nation, and for courage to live as faithful citizens of both heaven and earth.

Invitation: If you have never declared your dependence on Jesus Christ, today is the day. Only in Him do we find true life, liberty, and joy.