

## **True Freedom by Pastor Harvey Simpson**

**Sermon on June 28, 2020**

<https://HighlandParkChristianChurch.com>

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

Pretty powerful words, right?

### **We hold these truths...**

First of all we notice that these are objective truths, not subjective truths. In other words they apply to EVERYONE at ALL TIMES. Just because certain people in certain times do not recognize these rights among ALL individuals, doesn't mean that they do not exist. Where do we get objective moral truths, they certainly do not come from any HUMAN invention. We will see as we study this a little further from where these truths originate.

### **To be self evident...**

Important to notice here that you DO NOT have to DO anything to prove these truths. They are SELF-EVIDENT, in other words, we already KNOW these TRUTHS. For instance we know that TRUTH that is unconscionable and unheard of to torture people for fun at any time in existence. There may be a time to and place and reason to torture someone, but that reason can NEVER be for fun. Do you know what we call people that think it's okay to torture people for fun? PSYCHOPATHS. So, again, these TRUTHS are SELF EVIDENT...we all KNOW them.

**that all men are created equal...**

Notice that this doesn't say, "have evolved equally" Even before there was the good argument that we can make for intelligent design, our Founding Fathers, Thomas Jefferson, especially, since he wrote the Declaration of Independence, KNEW... that we are CREATED. Yes people are born to different societies and social classes if you will, but we are ALL equal as creations. Again, just because people have a bias against any group of people - and you can assign any description of the word "group" with whatever label you would like...race, creed, economic status, etc. - we are all EQUAL in our CREATOR's eyes.

**that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights...**

What is an endowment? It is a gift! God, our Creator, has gifted us with Rights that HE alone has the power to remove. The word "unalienable" means that NO ONE has the RIGHT to take away the RIGHTS that our CREATOR has bestowed upon us. These gifts, these RIGHTS, are a special gift from God our CREATOR that originate directly from the very nature of God. They are to be enjoyed by all, and again the source is God our CREATOR...NOT our federal, state or local government, NOT even our church. These rights spring from the very nature of an all loving, all knowing, all powerful, all present God - and deep down, we all KNOW this.

**that among these are Life...**

Now we start to list just SOME of the RIGHTS that have bestowed upon us. You'll notice that Jefferson was very clear in stating that these are NOT the only RIGHTS given to us by GOD, but just some of them, the word "among" has a very precise meaning in this context...The first big one is LIFE...God, who is LIFE, bestows upon us the RIGHT to EXIST. That is a basic fundamental RIGHT. NO one has the right to take away that life from you except in extreme cases. I don't want to get into a big debate here, but there are good arguments for when an individual or a government can take that RIGHT from a person, these involve when a person has MURDERED someone and in the act of self defense or the defense of innocent lives. But

suffice it to say, GOD and GOD alone has given us the RIGHT to live. We do not exist because our government wills it. We exist because God created us in His image.

### **Liberty...**

Another right granted to us by God, not the government. Liberty is the ability to do as one pleases within the confines of the law. We even have the freedom to violate God's law, if we so desire - that is called sin - but God gives us the freedom, to choose. FREE WILL is a fundamental RIGHT. LIBERTY doesn't mean we can do WHATEVER we want. It means we can do whatever we want without violating the RIGHTS of others. In an ordered society, people that violate the rights of others are punished by a just government through due process of the law.

Example... We have LIBERTY to choose to use our money that we earn as we see fit, as long as it doesn't violate the law. We can save, spend, invest with our material wealth as we choose, within limits. For instance you do NOT have the right to use your money to hire a hitman to MURDER your business partner. That is a clear violation of LIBERTY.

### **and the pursuit of Happiness...**

I want you to look at this very carefully, we do not have the GUARANTEE of HAPPINESS, just the ability to use our LIFE and OUR LIBERTY to pursue HAPPINESS. So how do you pursue HAPPINESS? Well that depends on each individual's definition of "HAPPINESS". For some HAPPINESS is leaving society and living in a mountain cabin, for some, it's accumulating large amounts of material wealth and goods, for others it's investing in the lives of others. The definition of HAPPINESS, again depends on the person. If you are a multi-millionaire, and you have achieved that through moral means, and this is what ultimately makes you happy, then NO ONE or GOVERNMENT should be allowed to stop you from growing your wealth. It doesn't matter what your definition of HAPPINESS is, YOU have the right to pursue that endeavor without interference from the GOVERNMENT.

### **That to secure these rights...**

Uh oh, why would these RIGHTS NEED to be secure? IF they come from our CREATOR, and apparently our Founding Fathers believed that they did come from our CREATOR, why would they need to be secured?

Well, I believe that our Founding Fathers knew what would happen in a sinful, broken world. They actually experienced it through the actions of Britain's King at the time. Remember, just because God has BESTOWED these RIGHTS TO ALL HIS CREATION, doesn't mean that sinful men will agree to and follow these rights. Want proof?

Look how long the Ten Commandments have been KNOWN - several thousand years right?

Even Paul tells us in Romans 2:14-15

***14 (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law.***

***15 They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.)***

And yet, people STILL lie, cheat, steal, murder and commit adultery even today...and they KNOW better.

So these RIGHTS must be secured...who is SECURING them? Let's find out...

## **Governments are instituted among Men,...**

Here we go. The government is to be the securer of these and other rights. The government is NOT the granter of these rights, even though some governments believe that they are. As we have seen these RIGHTS are bestowed by God. But it is the burden of the government established by men to be sure that these rights are NOT violated. Does this mean that all men and women in elected office should be Bible believing Christians? No. It WOULD be nice if they were, and I don't mean twice a year or once a week Christians, but true believers in Christ and His message. Wow! Think about that if ALL government was ONLY filled with Christians that ALWAYS followed the Law of God, what a wonderful world that would be. Actually there is coming a government someday when all in power WILL follow the Law of God. It's described in Isaiah and Revelation.

Isaiah 9:6-7

***6 - For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;  
And the government will [i]rest on His shoulders;  
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.***

***7***

***There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace,  
On the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness  
From then on and forevermore.***

And Revelation 11:15-17

***15 Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven,  
saying,***

***“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His  
[j]Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.”***

***16 And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their***

*faces and worshiped God,*

*17 saying,*

*“We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign.*

**deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...**

The powers of the government are given by the people, not some Royal Decree from a single person who is ruler (in this case King George).

Governments are instituted by men for men to secure God’s holy gifts that He has bestowed upon us.

So this week we celebrate Independence Day. It is the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

These first few lines are probably among the best known sentences that Americans today, or at least it used to be...

In addition to the listing of the RIGHTS that the Declaration of Independence asserts in the beginning, is a list of 27 grievances that the Colonies had against King George that violated their RIGHTS, and justification for severing all bonds with England.

And finally at the conclusion of the document just before 56 delegates of the states signed their names we read...

**And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.**

Those 56 delegates knew that they were signing a death sentence, should England catch and return them. This was treason against the Crown of England. But guess what? They pledged EVERYTHING to be known as supporters of this document. LIVES, FORTUNES AND SACRED HONOR.

These delegates paved the way for a land with a just government. A government that was designed to SECURE rights, not bestow them.

One of the biggest RIGHTS that we have is LIBERTY, as a matter of fact, July 4, is called INDEPENDENCE DAY, another word for FREEDOM or LIBERTY.

So how does one truly be FREE?

Well, I think we need to look at a document, or series of documents that are MUCH older than the Declaration of Independence. As great as this document is, this one is even better. Anyone know what I am talking about?

Of course you do! It's the Bible.

Look at the words of Jesus Himself in Luke 4:16-21

***16 And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. 17 And the [a]book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the [b]book and found the place where it was written,***

***18***

***“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,  
Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor.  
He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives,  
And recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set free those who are oppressed,***

***19***

***To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.”***

***20 And He closed the [c]book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your [d]hearing.”***

Jesus Christ took the words of the prophet Isaiah about God and applied them to Himself! That's a pretty bold thing to do, IF you are not God.

Fortunately for us, and those in that room, Jesus IS God, so the reading and application are 100% applicable. Christ gives TRUE freedom by giving sight to the Spiritually blind. Freeing from sin, those who are oppressed, and are looking for a way out. What is that way out, what is TRUE freedom?

It's the Gospel of Jesus Christ!  
The Gospel will set you free!

No longer are we under the shackles of the law.  
No longer do we need to try to earn our favor with God by DOING things.  
No longer need we be ashamed and held accountable for what we could not keep in the law.  
No longer are we a slave to our pride.  
No longer are we a slave to our ambitions.  
No longer are we a slave to sin.  
No longer are we a slave!

Christ has come to fulfill ALL the requirements of the Law and welcome us into that perfect relationship with God, through His perfect atoning sacrifice for us on the cross.

Do YOU know that freedom today?  
Sure, you live in a free country, but are you TRULY free?

Allow God into your life, through His Son, Jesus Christ and KNOW what true Freedom really is!

Luke, quoting Paul in Acts 13:39 says...

***39 and [a]through Him everyone who believes is [b]freed [c]from all things, from which you could not be [d]freed [e]through the Law of Moses.***

And Paul tells us directly in Romans 6:7

***7 For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.***

Have you been set free from the power of sin?

You can take care of that today.

Pray with me...