

# **“Fireworks for the Soul”**

## **Independence**

- \*I love fireworks...
- \*Fireworks = Celebration!
- \*Don't you love the way we water down our holidays?
- \*What does “independence” mean to you?
- \*Declaration of Independence Quiz...
- \*Read excerpts from the Declaration of Independence...
- \*Independence is GOOD!!!
- \*Independence and Apple Pie = American!
- \*The idea of Independence carries over into our personal lives as rugged individualism and the American Dream...
- \*How many times have you heard, “Blaze your own trail” or “Carve your own path” or “Determine your own course”?
- \*When our country started George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson were examples of this...  
Grew = John D. Rockefeller, Commodor Vanderbilt and J.P. Morgan...  
Today = Sam Walton, Warren Buffet and Bill Gates...

## **Transition**

- \*Have you ever noticed the opposites in the Bible? The things that seem right or feel right but end up being wrong?
- \*“Turn the other cheek” in Matthew 5:38-39.
- \*“Whoever loses his life for me will find it...” in Matthew 16:25.
- \*“Love your enemies...” in Matthew 5:43-44.
- \*There's something that God thought was so important that he actually put it in the Bible twice...Proverbs 14:12 and Proverbs 16:25 both say, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.”
- \*As great as Independence is, and as “right” as it seems, I believe that for the Christian, there's a better way...

## Dependence

\*Yes, I said DEPENDENCE.

### 1. We are to be dependent on God.

- Proverbs 3:5-6 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.”
- WE NEED GOD! Our Founding Fathers understood this!
- Acts 17:28 says, “In him we live and move and have our being.”  
(A fish out of water...)
- We should Declare our Dependence on God! PREACH!!!  
(Spiritually, Physically, Mentally, Emotionally, Relationally, and Financially)
- Our problem is that we’re dependent on everything BUT God...
  - Jobs = Provision
  - Family = Security
  - TV = Entertainment
  - Dr.’s and Medicine = Health
  - Looks = Self Esteem
  - Gun = Protection
  - Friends = Companionship
  - Credit Cards = Emergencies
- God is standing on the sidelines of our lives begging for us not to be dependent on the GIFTS but to be dependent on him, the GIVER!
- Read prayer...

### 2. We are to be dependent on Others.

- Read I Cor. 12:12-27.
  - Vs. 14-20 = EVERYONE has something unique to give!
  - Vs. 21-25 = EVERY part is EQUALLY important!
    - Foot = Mobility
    - Toes = Balance
  - Vs. 26-27 = Share about my life!
    - I have felt your prayers and concern...
    - One day soon you’ll rejoice with me!
    - That’s the Body of Christ – Dependence on others!

3. Others are dependent on us.

-Read Romans 12:3-8.

Vs. 5 = we belong to each other!

-1 Cor 6:20 says, "You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."

-If we withhold our gift the whole body suffers!

Piano

Lead Worship

Work with Kids

Evangelism

Signs

Bulletins

Picking someone up for church...

-Sometimes we withhold what we have because:

We're unsure of ourselves OR

We're afraid or embarrassed.

But your gift belongs to me too!

-I'm still trying to figure out my place in the body of Christ...

My life is not just about me!

That alone, in the face of my circumstances, has kept me from giving up.

### **Conclusion**

\*Bow heads and close eyes...

\*I believe that it's only through being dependent on God and finding your place in the Body of Christ that you'll FULLY understand who you are as an individual!

\*Today, I need to:

1. Declare my Dependence on God!
2. Learn to Depend on others.
3. Find my place in the Body of Christ