

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance."

Psalm 33:12

- *July 4th, 1776, a band of brothers, believing that they were led by God, met for the purpose of establishing a new nation. They signed the "Declaration of Independence" which began the establishment of an entirely new form of government. A government where men are acknowledged as free yet responsible for the "common good". A nation which holds at the core of its being, that God is sovereign and all rights and responsibility come from Him. These truths, as they stated, are "Self-evident" and agree with God's call on our nation and on our lives...*

1. "All Men are Created EQUAL."

"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, 'Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.'"

Acts 10:34 (KJV)

- BENJAMIN FRANKLIN – "Slavery is such an atrocious debasement of human nature... The galling chains, that bind his body, do also fetter his intellectual faculties, and impair the social affections of his heart." (November 9, 1789)
- **Key Truth:** We must SEE and TREAT others as God does us.

2. "They are Endowed by Their CREATOR with Certain Inalienable Rights."

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

Genesis 1:27

- THOMAS JEFFERSON – "Well aware that the opinions and belief of men depend not on their own will, but follow involuntarily the evidence proposed to their minds; that Almighty God hath created the mind free, and manifested His supreme will that free it shall remain... who being Lord of both body and mind, yet chose not to propagate it by coercions on either, as was in His Almighty power to do, but to extend it by its influence on reason alone..." (January 19, 1786)
- **Key Truth:** All people have VALUE, we must VALUE all people.

3. "Among these Rights are LIFE, LIBERTY, and the PURSUIT of HAPPINESS."

"You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Galatians 5:13-14

- GEORGE WASHINGTON – "While I reiterate the professions of my dependence upon Heaven as the source of all public and private blessings; I will observe that the general prevalence of piety, philanthropy, honesty, industry and economy seems, in the ordinary course of human affairs, particularly necessary for advancing and conforming the happiness of our country. While all men are protected in worshipping the Deity according to the dictates of their conscience; it is rationally to be expected from them in return, that they will be emulous of evincing the sanctity of their professions by the innocence of their lives and the beneficence of their actions; for no man, who is profligate in his morals, or a bad member of the civil community, can possibly be a true Christian, or a credit to his own religious society. (General Assembly of Presbyterian Churches, May, 1789)

- **Key Truth:** Our RIGHTS don't release us from our RESPONSIBILITY.

4. "Governments are Instituted Among Men... Whenever any Form of Government Becomes Destructive to These Ends... it is the Right of the People to Alter It..."

"Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God."

Romans 13:1 (NASB)

- BENJAMIN FRANKLIN: "All of us who were engaged in this struggle (for Independence) must have observed frequent instances of a superintending Providence in our favor. To that kind Providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful Friend? Or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance? I have lived... a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth - that God Governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise with His aid? We have been assured, sir, in the Sacred Writings, that 'except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it'. I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel." (Constitutional Convention, June 28, 1787)

- **Key Truth:** God is our GUIDE, we owe our first ALLEGIANCE to Him.