

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Freedom & Liberty

1776 - the American British Colonies declared themselves free from the imposed authority of King George of England

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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 unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*

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They were willing to fight the mightiest military on earth to secure that freedom

- *"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."*
 - *Their freedom was worth whatever it cost them to obtain it*
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1863 – *The Emancipation Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln*

- *Enslaved people in the U.S. are declared to be freed from the bondage of human ownership.*
 - *Winning The Civil War empowered the U.S. Government to legally enforce that declaration.*
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Where does real freedom & liberty of who we are come from?

- *Freedom we don't need military war to establish & protect.*
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Genesis 1:26-28, Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it"

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Genesis 2:7-8, And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.

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Genesis 2:15-18, Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

And the Lord God said, "*It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.*"

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Genesis 2:21-25, And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: "This is now bone

of my bones and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and **were not ashamed**.

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*They lived in **total freedom** with God & each other!*

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What bondage do we all need to be freed from?

- *Our fleshly human nature we inherited from Adam & Eve*

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Genesis 3:1-7, Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ” Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that **in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened**, and you will be like God, **knowing good and evil**.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate.

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*(1 Timothy 2:14, And **Adam was not deceived**, but **the woman being deceived**, fell into transgression.)*

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She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. **Then the eyes of both of them were opened**, and **they knew that they were naked**; and they sewed fig leaves together **and made themselves coverings**.

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Genesis 3:8-11, And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves

from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and **I was afraid** because I was naked; **and I hid myself**.” And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?”

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Their innocence, purity, confidence, openness & eternal life died...

- *And God revealed the earthly consequence of their sin*
- *For them, and all who would descend from them*

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Genesis 3:16-19, To the woman He said: “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: “Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread **till you return to the ground**, for out of it you were taken; For dust you are, and to dust you shall return.”

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At what cost was our guaranteed freedom & liberty provided?

- *And who paid for that freedom in our behalf?*

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John 8:32 & 36, “**And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free... Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.**”

Romans 8:1-2, There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

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Galatians 5:1, Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

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How do we stand fast in that freedom & liberty from bondage?

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King David, a man after God's own heart (I Samuel 13:14)

- **Psalm 32:5**, I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
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God's promise to us,

- **I John 1:8-9**, If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
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John 3:16-17, For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

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Romans 8:29, For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

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Be made free, and live free in Christ Jesus