

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN F E L L O W S H I P

Separated to Freedom

On Independence Day we celebrate our separation from the authority of the King of England. Instead, we dedicate ourselves to the government of our own choosing, with God given rights that are due to all people.

*“When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which **the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them**, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires **that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.**”*

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Instead, we dedicate ourselves to the government of our own choosing, with God given rights that are due to all people.

*“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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*Separated is **from what wrong** is not enough. It leaves a vacuum.*

- *Jesus said only removing the wrong can lead to something much worse*

*We must be **separated to God and what He reveals** as right and just.*

***II Corinthians 6:17-18**, “Come out from among them **and be separate**, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.”*

What is unclean?

- **Anything & everything** contrary to what God reveals as right & good

How shall we know?

- Listen to **His Word**

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***James 4:4-5**, “Adulteresses! Don’t you know that friendship with the world is **hostility toward God?** Whoever wants to be **the world’s friend** becomes **God’s enemy**. Or do you think it’s without reason the Scripture says that the Spirit who lives in us yearns jealously?”*

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***John 15:18-20 & 17:16**, “If the world hates you, understand that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own. However, **because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world**, the world hates you. Remember the word I spoke to you: ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ **If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.**”*

“They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”

***I John 2:15**, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. **If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in them.**”*

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Matthew 7:21-23, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord!' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My Father in heaven. On that day **many will say to Me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in Your name, drive out demons in Your name, and do many miracles in Your name?'** Then **I will announce to them, 'I never knew you! Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'**"

II Timothy 2:19, Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord **must turn away from wickedness.**"

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Ephesians 5:8-11, "For you were once darkness, but now **you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light** (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them."

What does light do in darkness?

- It **reveals** what may be hidden
- Light doesn't go after darkness, it dispels it.

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Matthew 5:14-16, "**You are the light of the world.** A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**"

How different is light from darkness?

- When God brought His children out of bondage, He put such a distinction between them and their captors that even dogs could recognize it.

Exodus 11:7, "But among the Israelites **not a dog will bark at any person or animal.** Then you will know that **the LORD makes a distinction** between Egypt and Israel."

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How do we embrace **this distinction of light** in the darkness around us?

Romans 12:2, 9 & 21, "Do not conform to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will... Love must be without hypocrisy. **Detest evil; cling to what is good...** Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with good.**"

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In **a world of darkness** that does not know, love or serve God...

- We are **not here to persecute or condemn** those lost in darkness.

Paul told the Corinthians we are not here to judge them

- That is God's job (**I Cor. 5:9-12**)

Our job is to **keep the light clean & clear** for all to see

- And **love those around us as Christ does (I John 4:17)**
- Do our job & leave the outcome to God