

Liberty



semi-quin-centennial

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

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. — 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. — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such Principles and organizing its Powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. — But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Tyranny, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this let facts be submitted to a candid world. — He has refused his assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. — He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. — He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inseparable to them and parcelable to tyrants only. — He has called together legislative Bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures. — He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people. — He has refused for a long time after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their service; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within. — He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Strangers; refusing to pass other Laws to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. — He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers. — He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. — He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their substance. — He has kept among



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.

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.

“We hold these truths to be sacred and undeniable,
that all men are created equal...”

Franklin's edit changed this to:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all
men are created equal...”

We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled, **appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world** for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states;

Galatians 5:1 (KJV) — 1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

John 8:32 (KJV) — 32 *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

Romans 6:23 (KJV) — 23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 8:1 (KJV) — 1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Isaiah 53:5 (KJV) — 5 But he was wounded for
our transgressions, he was bruised for our
iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon
him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Christ was treated as we deserve, that we might be treated as He deserves. He was condemned for our sins, in which He had no share, that we might be justified by His righteousness, in which we had no share. He suffered the death which was ours, that we might receive the life which was His. “With His stripes we are healed.” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 25.2)

John 8:34–36 (KJV) — 34 Jesus answered them,
Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever
committeth sin is the servant of sin. 35 And the
servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the
Son abideth ever. 36 If the Son therefore shall
make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

Romans 6:14 (KJV) — 14 For sin shall not have
dominion over you: for ye are not under the law,
but under grace.

Galatians 5:13 (KJV) — 13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Psalm 119:45 (KJV) — 45 And I will walk at
liberty: for I seek thy precepts.

Ezekiel 36:26 (KJV) — 26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Jude 24 (KJV) — 24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Romans 6:22 (KJV) — 22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

2 Corinthians 3:17 (KJV) — 17 Now the Lord is
that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is liberty.

John 8:36 (KJV) — 36 If the Son therefore shall
make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

