

Personal/Small Group Study

Week of July 7, 2024, A.D.

Liberty and Equality Come Through Christ

"Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." These are the opening words of the address spoken by President Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg on November 19, 1863. President Lincoln correctly observed that America is founded upon the biblical principles of liberty and equality. We will investigate the foundation of those principles in today's lesson.

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read Luke 4:14-19

1. Do a majority of the people on planet earth enjoy personal freedom? Or, are they oppressed? Why?
2. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "It is human nature for the people who have power to oppress those over whom they have power. On the other hand, liberty and freedom originate with and come from the God of the Bible."

Read John 8:31-36

3. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Liberty and freedom originate with and come exclusively from the truth of the gospel of Jesus the Christ."
4. Can any nation provide freedom to its citizens without having laws which are based upon, and enforced in accordance with, the teaching of the Bible?

Read Proverbs 14:34

5. Can any nation endure if that nation is not righteous? Please support your answer with references to human history and/or current events.

Read Galatians 5:13-15

6. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "When you choose to do wrong, you lose your freedom and become a slave to sin."

Read Galatians 3:26-29

7. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Equality does not mean that all people are the same. Equality means that all people receive the same treatment, have the same rights, and have the same intrinsic value."
8. Can there be equality among people without following the teaching of Jesus?

Read Acts 17:24-27

9. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "God providentially preserved the geographic area of the United States for its eventual inhabitation by the American people."
10. Would the United States exist as a nation if it were not for the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Read Philippians 3:18-21

11. Are Americans as a nation currently living as enemies of the cross of Christ? Should American Christians allow the teaching of the Bible to control their decision of how to vote in the election of public officials? Which should have the higher priority for an American Christian: (a) to be active in the political process or (b) to attract non-believers to faith in Jesus Christ?

Read Matthew 5:13

12. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "The only way for America to reverse its moral decline is for Christians to demonstrate that their commitment to Christ and His kingdom has a higher priority in their lives than their pursuit of worldly concerns."

Consider: Jesus said that Christians are the salt of the earth. Christians have an obligation to flavor and preserve our society so that others may be drawn to Christ. Only then can America become a nation which pleases God and which brings freedom and equality to its people. "You think about that." Amen.