

INDEPENDENCE DAY

1 John 5:14 ... “Now this is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.”

Tomorrow – July 4 – is America’s Independence Day. I fondly recall celebrating it every year of my life before I relocated to the Philippines. The Philippine Independence Day is June 12, and Filipinos rightly and proudly celebrate that, too. In a national sense, independence from a domineering, colonial, or dictatorial government is usually good. But, not always. In many instances people who rebelled and declared their freedom from another power, experienced a much harder life than they did formerly. In some countries, when the dust cleared and the old government was gone, the people discovered that they were unable to lead themselves, to sustain vital infrastructure, manage finances, and secure their borders – all services that their former government had firmly under control.

If you are a born again follower of Jesus Christ, you are a citizen of the Kingdom of God and a future citizen and tenant of Heaven. If you feel that your citizenship in God’s kingdom has deprived you of certain privileges or joys that the world offers you, you might be tempted to rebel against God’s sovereignty. Other believers have felt that way. You probably know some personally. They stepped away from God so they can indulge in adultery, sexual promiscuity, criminal activity, drug use, alcohol abuse, and more. They understand God’s prohibition against sin and they have no choice but to rebel against God if they want to live in sin.

If you rebel against God and declare your independence from him, there are certain and profound changes you can expect to experience: His protective and healing hand may be lifted, his companionship will definitely be suspended, his promise of provision will no longer be effective, your future in Heaven may be in jeopardy, your relationship with other believers may be curtailed, and any chance of sensing peace and joy will disappear. Confession of sin and repentance will enable you to restore your relationship with Christ, but the consequences of the sins you committed during your rebellious period will scar you for life; those mistakes are not erased, only the eternal implications of them.

Before you consider declaring your independence from God, consider the hardships that your declaration will produce, not only in your life, but in the lives of your loved ones and friends. Seldom do we make bad decisions that do not also affect others. Your relationship with God and your citizenship in his kingdom will not be enhanced by striking out on your own. Only total DEPENDENCE on God will produce the joy and security you desire.

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