

# July 2009

## National Independence from Radical Interdependence

*"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."*

*1 Corinthians 12:27 NIV*

*"If we do not all hang together, we shall surely hang separately."*

*Ben Franklin*

July in America is marked by the celebration of our national Declaration of Independence from the tyrannies of an oppressive government. Our founding fathers wrestled with the "rightness" of their intentions, but concluded that such a declaration and the price that freedom demanded was necessary. As a result of their declaration and willingness to pay the cost necessary for a new nation to be established, the United States was birthed as the "land of the free" and "home of the brave." Our rights and privileges of being a citizen came about by the willingness to live not only as free individuals, but as members of a community on a national scale. Their interdependence upon one another gave impetus for a dream and then the will to fund and fight a war that bought their freedom.

Interdependence among Jesus' members is His plan for us to know –to experience the benefits of our salvation, and to do together what we could never achieve on our own. Our very salvation is based upon the willingness of another follower of Christ sharing the good news of Christ with us –we are by design dependent upon one another.

Life has a way of warring against life giving principles and this is not a new challenge. The book of Genesis records for us how the enemy of our soul rose up in rebellion by declaring his independence from our Creator God (Isa14:13.) He spread this spirit to humanity's parents when he caused them to question His goodness and tempted them to "take matters into their own hands." (Gen 3:1-7) Their choice caused an eternal breach of relationship between each other and between them and their loving Creator. This "root" of death-causing-independence is in our DNA and has resulted in an unhealthy self reliance and mistrust –something every human being has to deal with.

The good news is that the God-Man, Jesus Christ willingly gave up His divine rights as God and lived a life of complete and utter dependence upon His Father through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. This interdependence between the Members of the Holy Trinity restored for

us a pattern of life through the power of love demonstrated by Jesus' willing sacrifice on the cross –by the plan and purposes of God the Father. The relationship among The Father, The Son and The Spirit demonstrate for us the power of relationship and interdependence. Jesus invitation to know The Father is also a call to family relationship. Relationship among Jesus' family is His means of benefiting our lives. From relationship one with another we know love and the security, strength, and safety that flow from this organic union in Christ Jesus.

As the New Life Family enters a new season of refocusing, regrouping, retooling and re-engaging, I am excited by the possibilities of life among a family of believers that give themselves to the mission of "being neighbors for life." (Luke 10:29-37) Life as Jesus designed it to be is known through relationship in His Body. May our gracious heavenly Father fill us with hope and a sense of adventure as we celebrate both our national declaration of independence and our missional directive of mutual interdependence.

Pastor Dave