



- Up Words # 20



A DECLARATION OF INTER-DEPENDENCE

"And for the support of this Declaration with the firm reliance on the protection of divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." Fifty-six leaders of America's original thirteen colonies sealed this now famous "Declaration of Independence" with their signatures indicating their commitment to this great cause: The United States of America.

As we give thanks for our wonderful heritage and celebrate our nation's independence on Wednesday, let us also ponder our interdependence. Our nation and our church are not simply a collection of individuals, but a group of people who depend on one another.

For our church, the biblical phrase "one another" is a good expression of our interdependence. Romans 12:4-5 states, "For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."

How faithful are we at being interdependent? Galatians 5:13 states, "through love, serve one another," and Ephesians 4:2 indicates that we should be "showing tolerance for one another in love." I Thessalonians 3:12 says we should "abound in love" and I Peter 1:22 tells us to "fervently love one another from the heart."

Let us consider too some other declarations of interdependence.

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| 1. Confer with one another - Acts 4:15 | 6. Care for one another - I Cor. 12:25 |
| 2. Build up one another - Rom. 14:19 | 7. Be subject to one another - Eph. 5:21 |
| 3. Accept one another - Rom. 15:7 | 8. Bear with one another - Col. 3:13 |
| 4. Admonish one another - Romans 15:14 | 9. Teach & admonish one another - Col. 3:16 |
| 5. Wait for one another - I Cor. 11:33 | 10. Encourage one another - I Thess. 5:11 |

Then add to these commands like, "Be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving each other (Eph. 4:32). Regard one another as more important than yourselves (Phil. 2:3) and, "Always seek after that which is good for one another (I Thess. 5:15). Hebrews 10:24 reminds us to "stimulate one another to love and good deeds" and James 5:16 says to "confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another." "Be hospitable to one another without complaint" is Peter's reminder in I Peter 4:9 and in I Peter 5:5 he reminds us to "clothe yourselves with humility toward one another."

This Fourth of July, may each of us consider these commands and reaffirm our interdependence.

Looking Up,
Pastor Chuck Circle