

'LOVE FROM ABOVE'
(Fullness of Joy through Biblical Fellowship in Christ)
Studies in 1 John

Red, White & Blue

American flags will be flying from sea to shining sea a few days from now on the fourth of July; Independence Day. That day is set apart annually to celebrate the official separation of the original thirteen colonies from the motherland, England, and her oppressive ruler, King George. July 4th is now set aside annually to commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 as an official cessation from British rule. According to legend, Betsy Ross was commissioned by a small committee led by George Washington to sew the first American flag in May of that year. By June it was completed and seen as the symbol of the new, emerging nation.

Although the amount and the arrangement of the stars in a field of blue have changed over the years, the alternating symbolic red and white stripes have remained essentially the same. There is difference of opinion about the exact symbolic meaning of the various components of **the red, white and blue**, but generally it is believed that **the red** symbolizes 'courage, hardiness and bloodshed' (*resolve and sacrifice in backing up the Declaration of Independence*); **the white** symbolizes 'purity and vigilance' (*needed to protect America from all corrupting influences*); and **the blue** symbolizes 'justice and perseverance (*lofty goals of the new nation under heaven*). The thirteen stripes symbolize the 13 original colonies and stars symbolize each state that has joined the union over the centuries. The flag is not the United States of America – it is a symbol of America and a vivid reminder of how it all began and what we are to stand for as one nation under God.

Communion or the Lord's Table is a very special symbol of biblical Christianity. It was established by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself in the *Upper Room* with His original group of disciples the night before He fought the battle against sin, death, the grave, and hell at Mount Calvary (***Matthew 26: 26-29, Mark 14:22-25, Luke 22:19-20***). Communion is not a continuation of that battle of the cross, nor is it a reenactment of it as heretically taught by the Roman Catholic Church; it's where all true disciples of Christ **REMEMBER** what He did, not mystically receive Him again and again! Christ knew this twisting of communion's symbolism would be done by Roman Catholicism and therefore appeared to the Apostle Paul to clarify, once and for all, that communion doesn't impart grace, but imparts humility, worship, and love in the heart of someone already saved (***1 Corinthians 11:23-32***).

The Lord's Supper's symbolic elements (*the matzah/ bread = symbolic of His sinless body broken on the cross for us so we may be forgiven; the grape drink/ the cup = symbolic of His holy blood poured out to cover and atone for our sin, by the washing of His divine blood when we believe*), This reminds disciples of their Savior's love for them and inspires them to sacrificially love Him with separated lives of purity and service for His glory (***Philippians 2:15-16***).

In fact, **1 Corinthians 11:26-30** even warns all non-Christians and carnal believers to **NOT PARTAKE** of communion! Very strange command of the Lord if communion was meant to save whoever takes it! If communion saves as the RCC says then you would want all the sinners you can find to take it! But here the Lord Jesus Christ warns against doing that. Why? Because communion was never meant to convey grace to lost souls – it is meant to bless those who already are forgiven, by remembrance of Christ's cross-work, through symbols of what He did then and there, once and for all, forever (***Hebrews 10:11-18***).

At the Lord's Table, dedicated *born again* Christians pledge allegiance to the Lord by remembering **the red** (*the gospel of Christ's shed blood on the cross*), **the white** (*the good news of cleansing and purity of life we now live in Christ*) and **the blue** (*our blessed assurance of eternal life in heaven with the Lord when this life is over*).

Independence Day remembers the signing of the Declaration of Independence 242 years ago in Philadelphia. Communion (*or Lord's Table*) remembers the Lord Jesus' Declaration of Independence from judgment and damnation by His sacrificial death on the cross and resurrection. And it's also a very holy time for dedicated believers as they **remember** their personal '**Him-Dependence Day**' – the day they received the Savior by faith into their heart and soul forever (*not temporarily in the mouth and stomach per RCC error*). If you do remember such a day then be blessed and remember the Lord today in communion - if not please refrain from this part of the service until after you do have a personal '**Him-Dependence Day**', when you turn from sin, self and religious superstition, to the Savior (**Romans 10:9-13**). PtL

'HIM-Dependence Way'

(Celebrating Our Progressive Freedom in Christ)

1 John 3:1-9

Liberation: The Coming Day

(Glorification: Freedom from the presence of sin)

"Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us that we should be called the children of God! Therefore, the world does not know us because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."

3:1-3

Liberation: The Christian Way

(Sanctification: Freedom from practicing sins / outward)

"Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins and in Him there is now sin. Whoever abides in Him doesn't sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him."

3:4-6

Liberation: The Consecrated Way

(Emancipation: Freedom from prevailing sin / inward)

"Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God."

3:7-9