

Are We Too Independent?

Tomorrow is the 4th of July, and our country will for the 246th time celebrate its independence. Being born and raised in the United States is such a great blessing and as a result, we are taught to be strong, proud, patriotic, and independent citizens. For many of us, our parents brought us up to stand on our own two feet and to carry our own weight. A most noble of upbringings to say the least. But being an independent individual and a Christian may pose a possible weakness in one's character.

First, a side-effect for the Christian who is vastly independent is pride. This type of pride might keep one from reaching out for help from other members of the church when times get difficult. We may only consider the church as a source of spiritual support, but God designed it to be so much more! Physical and material support within the church is taught throughout the scriptures. Just as the disciples sent relief to the brethren of Judea during a great famine (*Acts 11:27-30*), modern day members must provide material things to other Christians in need (*Romans 15:27*). Remember that when it comes to the good works of benevolence, the care of fellow Christians is to take precedent (*Galatians 6:10*). Unfortunately, because of too much independence and pride, many Christians never go to the church for help, therefore, suffering needlessly.

Secondly, too much independence and pride will keep one from reaching out during times of spiritual weakness. Again, the church is a source of encouragement, edification, and enrichment for the struggling Christian. (*Heb. 10:24; 1 Thess. 5:11; James 5:13-16; Galatians 6:1-10; Colossians 2:1-3*)

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