

**“JEFFERSON’S WORDS”  
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Words can be very powerful. At certain critical points in history, words have inspired men and women to do great things. The words of Thomas Jefferson moved the colonists to rebel against tyranny and establish a new country. Jefferson penned the stirring words of the Declaration of Independence. This historic document expressed the longing of those in the New World to be free.

Every Fourth of July we celebrate the words of Thomas Jefferson. At one time, it was the custom to read the Declaration of Independence from court houses, city halls, or parks. Citizens would gather every year to hear the timeless words of this historic document. His most famous phrase still moves us today:

*“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”*

These words affirm our belief that equality comes from our Creator rather than the majority vote of a human government.

This affirmation finds its foundation in the pages of the Bible. Scripture clearly teaches that God has made each one of us in his own image. God has given us the gift of reason and the ability to relate with each other. Because of this, each person has value in the eyes of God. We read,

*“He who mocks the poor insults his Maker.”  
(Proverbs 17:5)*

The Bible clearly teaches that God’s love is not limited to just certain groups. We ignore Scripture if we treat some people as less than equal.

God’s arms are open to all who would open their hearts in faith. This is a radical teaching of Scripture. God’s ideal is summarized in these words,

*“The rich and the poor meet together;  
the Lord is the maker of them all.”  
(Proverbs 22:2)*

This verse expresses the truth that all of us are creatures of God. We find our basic human equality in this fact. These words of Scripture were written centuries before Jefferson penned the Declaration of Independence. It’s good to remember them as another Fourth of July approaches.

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