



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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As I was reading an article regarding the importance of taking care of your teeth, I came to the realization that poor dental care could result in cardiovascular disease, respiratory infections, diabetic complications, and even dementia. I had no idea that poor dental care could cause all of these other health problems. If you are like me you probably only think of cavities when you think about dental concerns. It is incredible that one problem can affect so many other areas of the human body.

The Bible talks about one universal problem that has had multiple effects on the human race. It is the problem called sin. Romans 3:23 makes the startling proclamation, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” The Greek word for “come short” is *hustereo* (hoos-ter-eh'-o). It means to be inferior or to fall short in the sense of being deficient. In our human process, we feel a level of satisfaction when we do comparison tests. We feel a sense of comfort when we acknowledge our deficiency; but draw the conclusion that it is not that bad since we know of others with worse deficiencies: the murderer, the rapist, and the child molester. And so we've taken the attitude that simply says, “I am not as bad as others.”

Of course, there are various degrees of sin, and certainly some are worse than others; but in the divine court of a righteous Judge, all are still found guilty! Regardless of the sin, the fact remains that we have missed the mark. Now that is a theological dilemma! Romans 6:23 prescribes our punishment: “The wages of sin is death....”

But there is good news: Even though we are guilty, Jesus Christ died for our sins so that our death penalty was paid in full! And when we trust Him for our salvation, we can be free from the ultimate effect of sin, which is eternal separation from God.

Spiritual freedom is important as we celebrate Independence Day. In the United States, Independence Day commemorates the adoption of the *Declaration of Independence* that occurred over 200 years ago. The government ruling party called the Continental Congress consisted of representation from the 13 colonies. The colonies united around the biblical concepts of liberty and human dignity, declaring independence and freedom from the tyranny of the British Empire. Many of the colonists associated national freedom with the spiritual freedom proclaimed in Scripture.

While Americans celebrate the values that unite us on July 4, our country is sharply divided over issues such as unemployment, immigration, and healthcare reform. For some, points of discord overshadow the grounds for unity. This makes it difficult to realize the importance of American independence.

For those who are in Christ, let us never forget that our great freedom is in Him. This will not remove the challenges of unemployment, immigration, and disunity among our people, but it will allow us to overcome our universal sin problem and share a hope that goes beyond our government or our political parties.

Dr. L.W. Edwards


**FREEDOM IS
IN PERIL
DEFEND IT
WITH ALL
YOUR MIGHT**

Facebook Post Earns Farmer Cold Shoulder

In 2014, a lesbian couple asked to be married at Steve Tennes' 120-acre orchard in Charlotte, Michigan. The Christian farmer told the couple the orchard (Country Mill) did not host same-sex weddings, and referred them to another orchard which could accommodate them. While the women selected another orchard to host their wedding the following year, one of them took to Facebook in 2016, discouraging customers from doing business with the Country Mill.

Steve responded to the Facebook post with an expression of his religious beliefs concerning marriage and his First Amendment rights to conduct his business in a manner consistent with those beliefs. Not long afterward, a city official from East Lansing, Michigan, warned the farmer his views of traditional marriage might incite protests if he sold his produce at the city's farmers market that year (2016). The family continued selling its produce there as it had for the previous six years, without incident.

In May of this year, East Lansing banned Country Mill altogether from selling produce at its farmers market, citing the orchard's violation of its human rights ordinance in not performing same-sex weddings. The Country Mill has in turn filed a lawsuit against the city of East Lansing for religious discrimination.

Deputy Director Dismissed from Examination after Chilling Religious Interrogation

In another part of the country, Russ Vought prepared for a Senate examination concerning his qualifications for the President-nominated position of deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget. Senator Bernie Sanders began his questioning by citing an article Vought had written in 2016. The article stated Muslims do not know God because they have rejected Jesus Christ, and therefore stand condemned.

Senator Sanders asked Vought if he thought his published statement was Islamophobic. As Vought defended his comments on the grounds of his Christian faith, the senator repeatedly pressed him on the theological distinctive of Christianity's exclusivity. Finally, Senator Sanders concluded, "I would simply say, Mr. Chairman, that this nominee is really not someone who this country is supposed to be about."

Put aside the fact Senator Sanders' use of a religious test for a nominee to public office is banned by the U.S. Con-

stitution, and think about the implications of his statement. If you adhere to any religion which teaches condemnation for unbelievers, then you are not fit to serve our country. According to the senator, you are intolerant, bigoted, and hateful and should be removed from the public square.

Religious liberty is as good as dead under these conditions.

Freedom and the Paradox of Reason

Christian philosopher Dr. Ravi Zacharias has stated, "In an attempt to be reasonable, man has become irrational. In an attempt to deify himself, he has defaced himself. In an attempt to be free, he has made himself a slave. And like Alexander the Great, he has conquered the world around him but has not yet conquered himself."

In our efforts at reasonableness in a democratic society, we have taken the accommodation . . . >>>[Keep Reading](#)



Contact Dr. Edwards if you would like to have him as your special guest.

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