

SELF-EVIDENT TRUTH

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“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...” (from the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776)

Certain truths are self-evident. One does not have to prove these to be true. These are evident to any person, and though a person may be taught otherwise, he or she still has within the heart or mind as sense of these truths. One such truth is that, though we do not see him, there is a being we call God who created the world and us who live in it. Another such truth is that there is a standard by which various values and actions can be regarded to be right or wrong. The above citation identifies the truth of individual human dignity and worth as another self-evident truth.

We are blessed to live in a nation which was founded on the belief that such truths are self-evident and not to be denied or compromised. When our nation began, it was not fully understood what would be all the ramifications of declaring such truths to be the basis of our union as a nation. Indeed, our nation’s history, to this very day, has been a process of seeking to understand and apply these truths in the vast community that is the USA.

These truths are also foundational to our Christian faith. It is the Christian account of the creation and the world’s relationship with its Creator that are the true source for these truths, and they are “self-evident” among cultures that have been influenced by Christianity. Our Scripture teaches that God made man and woman in his image, after his likeness, and gave them dominion over the world they live in, and that *“he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, yet he is actually not far from each one of us.”* Our Christian Scriptures teach us that every human, regardless of race, gender, national origin or social status has a value that cannot be measured by comparison to other kinds of life or to material things, but only by the value of the blood of Christ.

(Gen 1:26, Acts 17: 26-27, Col 3:11, 1 Pet 1:18-19)