

Resolution on the Nature of Unalienable Rights

Our nation's *Declaration of Independence* affirms the common faith of Americans in self-evident truths. The existence of man's unalienable rights is one of those truths. Samples are listed: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The *Declaration* also avers that governments are instituted among men for the purpose of securing these rights. It claims the people's authority to dismiss governments that fail to do this, for these unalienable rights come from the Higher Authority. "All men are created equal; they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights."

An unalienable right is one that is nontransferable. It cannot be lost, forfeited, stolen, or exchanged for something else. What makes human rights unalienable, in the faith of our founding fathers and in the text of their *Declaration*, is that human rights are endowments of the Creator upon all men. None of the endowments of creatures on other creatures are unalienable. What is given by one creature may be quickly taken away by the next. Rights and privileges that are the political favors of powerful governmental officials are temporary, alienable, and foreign to the dogma of the *Declaration*.

Today we live in a nation that our country's founders would not recognize as their own. It has been modern America's hope that she might forget her Creator but also somehow keep the unalienable quality of her human rights. She hopes this way because she longs to include among her unalienable rights behaviors and doctrines that the Creator has always condemned as sinful. She wants the right of a heterosexual creature to be a homosexual, and she wants the right of a male or female creature to be the opposite gender. She wants to believe that homosexuality and transgenderism are unalienable rights. These so-called rights, however, no Creator (that modern man did not himself create) ever endowed on any creature.

It is the nature of unalienable rights that they must be endowments of the Creator. When we deny the reality of the Creator, we lose the possibility that any human right is truly unalienable. The apostle Paul describes this phenomenon this way: "When they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools" (Rom. 1:21-22). Our nation's foolishness, at the highest levels of its professedly wise jurisprudence, is its refusal to glorify God as the Creator who endows unalienable rights. Our founding-fathers knew better. The loss of this Creator in favor of homosexuality and transgenderism is the loss of their faith in unalienable rights.

Therefore, the Independent Baptist Fellowship of North America, meeting at its annual conference at Hope Baptist Church in Hanover, PA, June 21-23, 2016, resolves that we shall glorify God as the Creator whose endowments upon His creatures include the true unalienable human rights our founding-fathers recognized as self-evident truths. We shall hold governments instituted among men as accountable for securing these God-given rights. We shall treat each human creature of the Creator with the heterosexual and gender dignity with which God designed them in His own image, but we will reject false claims to unalienable human rights that first require the removal of the Creator God. He is the only reason for the inalienability of any right or privilege available to man, and any assertion of so-called rights that must first deny His existence is necessarily false. These assertions have "changed the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen" (Rom. 1:25).