

A sunset over the ocean with the text "FREEDOM IN CHRIST" overlaid. The sky is filled with warm, orange and red hues, and the water below is dark with white-capped waves. The text is in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered horizontally and split into two lines.

**FREEDOM
IN CHRIST**

Famous Words

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

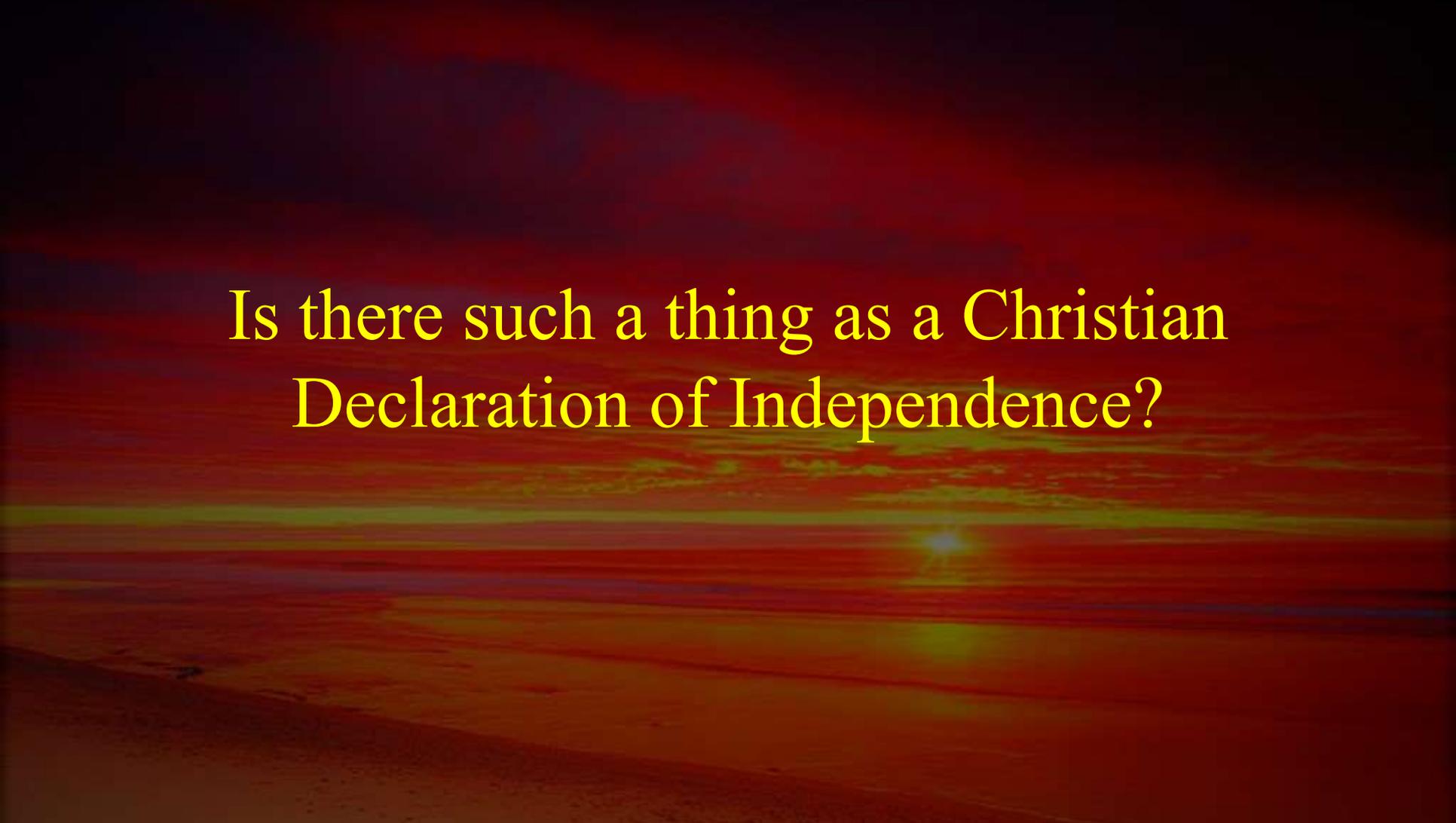
For the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance upon the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.”

The Declaration of Independence

A Defense of Independence

- Defended the reason for writing this document. — Respect for the opinions of mankind
- Defended Rights, — Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness
- Defended the reasons for independent nation status — 27 specific injustices are listed
- Defended their attempts to resolve the injustices.
- The Declaration of Independence
- The Pledge of support for the Declaration

The Signers Of
The Declaration Of Independence
Made It Clear That Liberty,
The Freedoms We Hold Dear,
Would Have To Be Fought For And Defended
If It Were To Become A Reality.

A sunset over a beach with the text "Is there such a thing as a Christian Declaration of Independence?" overlaid in yellow. The background shows a bright sun low on the horizon, casting a long, shimmering reflection on the water. The sky is a mix of deep reds, oranges, and yellows, with some wispy clouds. The beach in the foreground is dark and silty.

Is there such a thing as a Christian
Declaration of Independence?



Declaration of Freedom?

YES!

Declaration of Independence?

NO!

John 8:31-36

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone.

How can you say that we shall be set free?”

Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Jesus Issues A Challenge

- If these believers want to be his disciples they must “hold to his teaching” or NRSV “continue in my word”
- “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” The word for “free” denotes spiritual slavery
- This proverbial statement that’s been used politically, socially and even personally. What was Jesus’ intent?
- A call to know that Jesus is the Truth and a relationship with Jesus, the Truth, will set you free. It is personal not intellectual!

Selective Memory Kicks In

- John 8:33 (NIV) *They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"*
- The Ten Commandments begin with these words:
"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery." Exodus 20:2 (NIV)
- At least 8 reminders in the O. T. and they were at that moment under the rule of Roman overlords.

Jesus Brings the Discussion Back on Point

- John 8:34-35 (NIV) *Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever.*
- They and we are enslaved to Sin.
- Slaves have no place of permanence in the family.
- Everyone who continues in His word, has become part of the family, co-heirs and have a permanent place.

The Result of this Relationship

- *So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.* John 8:36 (NIV)
- More than Freedom from Rome, they are freed from sin.
- *...yet you are ready to kill me, because you have no room for my word.* John 8:37 (NIV)
- Their sin is they have *no room for my word* - the opposite of holding to his teaching/continuing in his word.

A Tale of Two Fathers

- John 8:38 (NIV) *“I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you do what you have heard from your father.”*
- Their identity is based in a physical relationship, their connection to Abraham, not a spiritual relationship.
- They were Abraham's children, but only in a physical sense. They were not dependent on the heavenly Father in the same way that Abraham was.

Their Problem Was An Independent Spirit

- Their dependence on ancestral Abraham had made them Independent of Abraham in the spiritual sense.
- They were not Abraham's children in the spiritual sense.
- *"If you were Abraham's children," said Jesus, "then you would do the things Abraham did. As it is, you are determined to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things."*
John 8:39-41 (NIV)

Our America Declaration Of Independence,
And The Freedoms Won And
Enjoyed Because Of It
Are Things To Appreciate And Celebrate.

Christian Are
Citizens Of The Kingdom Of God.
As Such, We Make A
Declaration Of Dependence On God And
A Declaration Of Interdependence
With Each Other.

John 15:5-8 (NIV)

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

1 Corinthians 12:12, 20-26 (NIV)

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ....

As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor.

And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

A sunset over a beach with the text "The Message of Christ is Still One of Freedom" overlaid in yellow. The background shows a bright sun low on the horizon, casting a long, shimmering reflection on the water. The sky is a mix of deep reds, oranges, and yellows, while the beach in the foreground is a dark, sandy brown.

The Message of Christ is Still
One of Freedom

The First Public Teaching Of Jesus Christ Proclaimed Freedom.

Luke 4:18 (ESV)

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

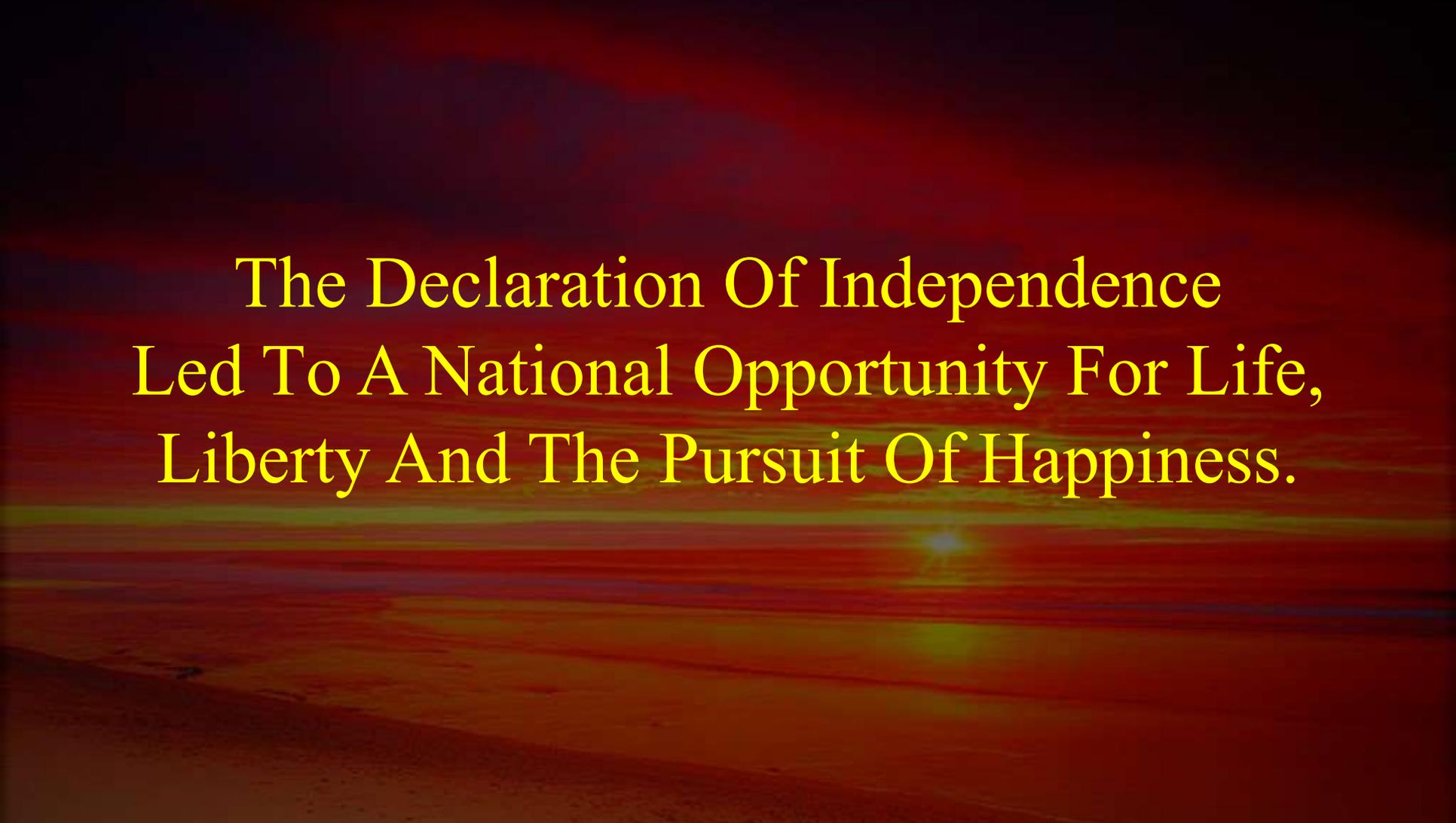
Those Who Are Dependent On God Still Experience Freedom.

Galatians 5:1 (NIV) It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

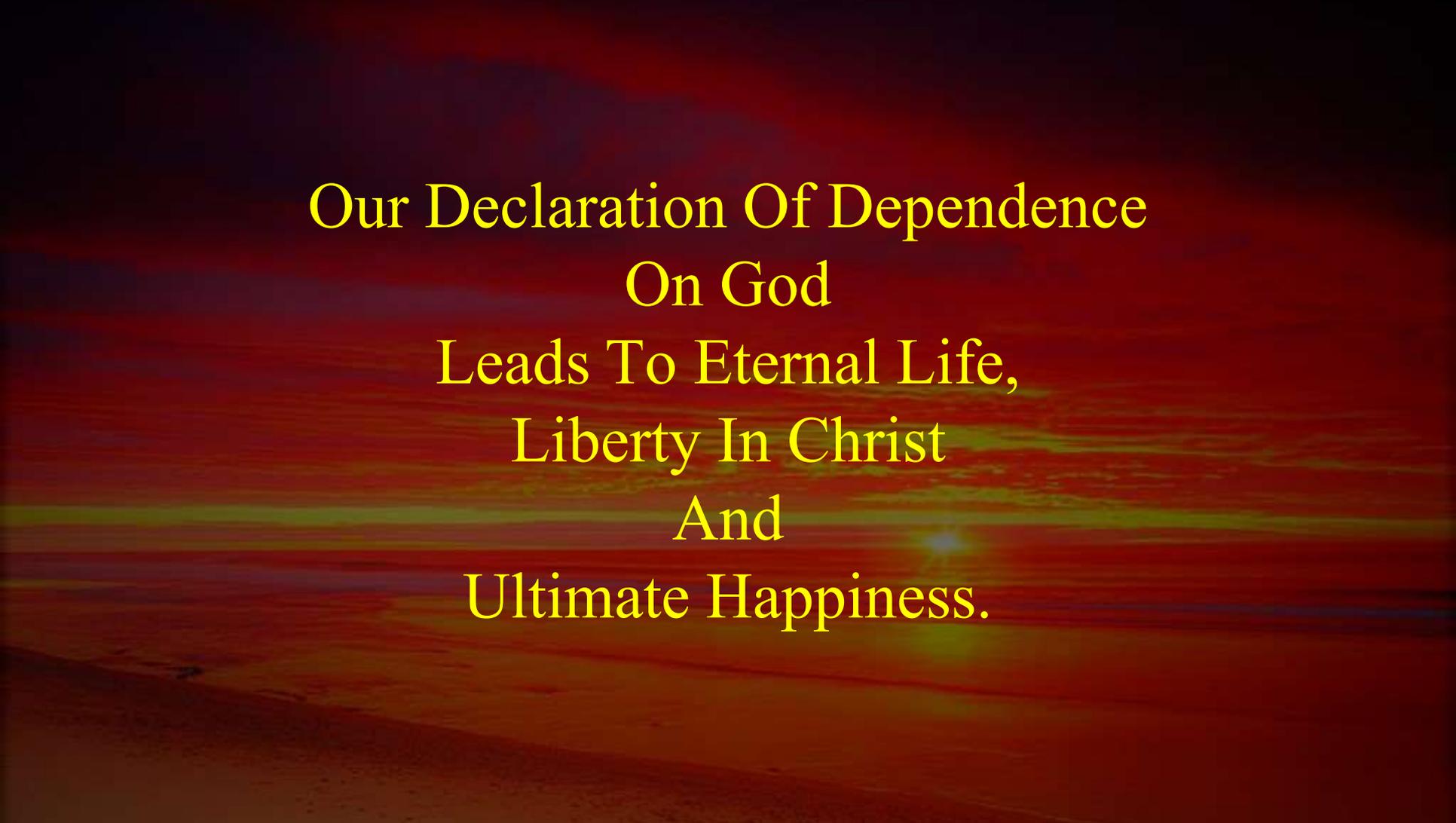
Galatians 5:13-14 (NIV) You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

When We Depend On God, We Are Freed In Many Ways.

- Freed from Sin
- Freed from Anxiety
- Freed from Bitterness
- Freed from Hopelessness
- Freed from Feeling Unloved
- Freed from a Low Self-image
- Freed from the Fear of Death

A sunset over a desert landscape with rolling sand dunes. The sky is a mix of deep red, orange, and yellow, with a bright sun low on the horizon. The dunes are silhouetted against the colorful sky.

The Declaration Of Independence
Led To A National Opportunity For Life,
Liberty And The Pursuit Of Happiness.

A sunset over a body of water with a sandy beach in the foreground. The sky is a mix of orange, red, and purple, with the sun low on the horizon. The water reflects the colors of the sky, and the beach is visible in the lower left corner.

Our Declaration Of Dependence
On God
Leads To Eternal Life,
Liberty In Christ
And
Ultimate Happiness.