

the ultimate journey

Explore Truth • Discover Love • Walk In Freedom

Declaration of Independence: Example #4

On this day, and after careful evaluation, I am saying goodbye to a childhood system that offered a set of rules and patterns that are inconsistent with how God sees me and who I am in Him. I am choosing to live my life from this day forward free from the old thought processes and preconceived ideas and to step into a freedom that is healthy and consistent with my new view of how God sees me – beautifully and wonderfully made.

I say goodbye to a system that told me it's not ok to cry or show emotions – “big boys don't cry”. Emotions are a wonderful part of who I am and offer a glimpse into the reality of who we are at the core of our being. I will not cover up or hide my emotions. Old thinking says “Men that are sensitive, tender and compassionate are weak and effeminate” – new thinking says “I will be real to my emotions, compassionate toward others and wear a pink shirt if I want to!”

I say goodbye to a system that told me good boys don't show anger, especially a Christian boy. I am fearfully and wonderfully made. I can be angry and when I am it doesn't mean God doesn't love me or I am out of his will. I will trust my instincts and react as a man of God should, but not fear judgment and will always temper any anger with truth and love. Having children is a good training ground for living this out – especially with teens.

I say goodbye to a system that told me boys and men were more important than girls and women. The old way of thinking is outdated and harmful. I embrace the strengths I see in women, especially my wife – smart, educated, dependable, spiritual, loving, supportive, and creative and so much more. I will encourage the women in my life to push to the next level and to become all they can be with the gifting and talents God has given them. I will not fear women's strengths.

I say goodbye to a system that told me being perfect was the only option for me and a guarantee for success. I reject the premise that my life would be measured by accomplishments – status, wealth, possessions, and friends. I am happy doing the best I can with the gifting and talents I have been given. Ultimately, God will provide what I need in life and enable me to perform and accomplish what needs to be done. I will lean on God for provision and always ask for a humble attitude for the blessings he has given to me.

I say goodbye to wrong thinking of not being good enough and not measuring up. I say goodbye to the fear of failing and not trying because I thought I would fail. I say hello to the fact that I am very good. I am very talented, I am very skilled, I have an outgoing personality that craves attention and I will not put these gifts under a cover of “ill conceived pride”, but will celebrate my strengths and my God given gifting – I will become naked and will not be ashamed.

Finally, I say goodbye to a life that skirted around the tough topics and situations of life – like emotional issues, sexual relations, alcoholism, depression and family issues. I will embrace the reality of life with my family as appropriate because life is real and impacts all of us. My own struggles with addiction are known by my wife, children and siblings – this would have NEVER been out on the table when I was younger. Open and honest conversations will be part of my life story.

Goodbye to the old and hello to the new.