

**1 John 3:18-19 ( KJV )**

*My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.*

Today is the Second Sunday after Trinity but it is also the Sunday in our Independence Day weekend. There is, if we stretch it but just a little, a connection between the two.

As we talked about last week, Trinity Season is the part of our liturgical year where we look at our everyday life in Christ, our day-to-day, mundane, sometimes boring trek of our journey with God.

Part of that journey, part of that day-to-day life is being good citizens of this great country. Oh, Sure! We do have problems but it is still a great country. Right now, we have a lot of problems.

But the problems are not what I'm going to talk about this morning. Rather, let's look at what is good and where we fit in to all of this as Christians.

When this land was colonized, we Anglicans were in many of the colonies the "established Church." That merely meant our church was supported by taxes. Everyone who paid taxes helped to support the Anglican parishes.

The Revolution came along and after that came our Constitution and the Bill of Rights which said in Amendment I,

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;

That pretty well shot our position as Anglicans being the established church.

This Amendment to our national Constitution does not do anything but prohibit the establishment of a “state church” such as you can find in the UK and in certain European countries and it specifically says Congress shall not pass any laws to prohibit the free exercise of any religion.

In other words we as Americans have the freedom to practice any religion from Animalism, the worship of animals to Zoroastrianism , which worships fire.

So where does that leave us as Christians in this melting pot of various faiths. Pretty well on our own, as I see it.

We cannot really sit back on our pews, fold our arms and just proclaim that this is a Christian country.

My brothers and sisters, we are going to have to work at it.

And we are going to have to get working on it in a hurry. There is a force in this world, in this country that would even take what little we have as Christians away from us. That force is called “apathy.”

You probably thought that I was going to say Islam, didn't you. Islam is a danger and a grave danger not only here in the United States but everywhere and we will talk about that pagan faith another time but today let's concentrate on the one great danger that plagues all of our churches. Apathy.

Some 235 years ago tomorrow, we declared ourselves a nation, independent and free from the Royal rule of England and we have had over the years since then to continually defend ourselves from every imaginable force that would threaten to destroy that freedom.

We fought two wars with the mother country, one with Mexico, one with Spain, one with ourselves, two with Germany and her allies, two with the forces of Communism and we are still at war on three fronts now against a shadowy ideology that even permeates our own nation.

But none of these present conflicts is as much a danger to us as “just not making the effort.... Apathy.”

Apathy is only 37 percent of eligible voters voting in the last general elections. Apathy is that less than 40 percent of Christians in this country attend services regularly. In the Seattle, Washington area this is less than 5 percent.

Apathy is sitting back and letting secular humanism replace Jesus Christ and Holy Scripture in our Churches. Apathy is that in most congregations around this country 20 percent of the members do 80 percent of the work.

We here at All Souls are not afflicted as many other parishes but we have to take a good look at what would happen if we weren't so active.

We have to make sure first of all what it means to be a Christian, a committed Christian, a Christian whose whole life is centered and controlled by God. We have to live our Christianity is such a way that all others can tell that we are Christian.

It all starts here. We cannot wait for someone else to do it for us. We do not have the time to wait. We all need to make that commitment to Jesus. We all need to make that commitment to our country before it is too late.