

## **A Declaration of Interdependence ~ July 3, 2011**

### **Galatians 6:7-10**

Whenever the Fourth of July rolls around and there is a Sunday close to it, I find myself looking at the little Letter to the Galatians for a pathway to a meditation. It was written by Paul to the little church in Galatia to urge that body to remain true to the faith no matter what forces might be trying to pull it off track.

Letters such as this one were necessary in the formative days of this new faith, for there were many other tempting and far easier ways to follow. Reminding those faithful few to stick to the pathway was something Paul and other missionaries had to do over and over again. It took a while for people to **get** the “good news” of Christ and to teach it to others. Through this process they discovered the need for declarations of interdependence—they needed one another. They also must have found many ways to compromise with one another to work for the good of all. If they would not have found a middle path we might not be sitting here today. There are times when we need to set aside our agendas and self-interests to move forward and accomplish anything.

Just take a little look at our government and the present struggle. I wasn't going to go there but there is no avoiding it, especially on this weekend when we celebrate our freedom as a nation. It is a little distressing to see people bullheadedly entrenched on opposite sides of an issue that is vital to the well being of all. Most of us would like to say to our representatives, on both sides of the aisle, “Get a clue. What is the matter with you? You will not suffer the consequences of your actions. We, the people, will. Get it together, create a declaration of interdependence and move beyond whatever it is that rankles you. Stop playing stupid games. Along with your freedom goes a great deal of responsibility.”

We often see people working for their own self-interest in every area of life. Those, who claim to be based in the Christian faith, need to open their eyes that they may see what it is that lies before them. Jesus did not call us to be as contentious as we can be. He called us to be strong and steadfast in our faith, but never to be so bullheaded that we cannot see another way, another side to the story. When he went down a wrong pathway, such as considering his mission to be only to the nation Israel, he was able to turn and minister to others who were not of his faith system as he worked his way through life. He was able to adapt and adjust to the situation around him. So, many were transformed by his healing touch who were not in his narrow interest group.

Where is that healing touch? Where is the willingness to serve others? Where is the ability to open the ears of those stopped up by their own rhetoric so that they are able to listen to others and honor a different point of view while discovering a way to work together toward a common goal? Democracy, as is Congregationalism, is a difficult way to work through anything. It requires people to remain open to one another, to, with trust, depend on one another to work toward consensus. To reach an important goal that is good for all. It asks us to reach out to others across an aisle, across a room across a table.

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked, we will reap what we sow. Never weary in doing good and working for what is good for all.”

*-- Amen*