

Independence Day

The American dream is often couched in the idea of Independence. At the moment of conception, every human being begins to live, but for about 9 months or so, we were entirely encased within another entity, totally relying on her for sustenance. When we pop out of our mother's womb, we are still totally dependent on her for life and care, and it's a cinch that we wouldn't live long out on our own without someone looking out for us. We couldn't eat, or drink out of a cup, or walk, or play, or ride a bicycle, or even get dressed by ourselves without somebody helping us. But the days come when we decide we can do things for ourselves. In fact, those days are hastened on by a society which is skeptical towards those who might need a little extra help. We want everybody to be free to do whatever they want to do, whenever they want to do it. That's what we are led to believe - that we can and should look out for ourselves - as soon as possible. I know that most of you readers are well able to go it alone, but there are some of us who are just slow. While you may not really need anybody to help you, and are well fitted for the world out there, I have generally wound up making some major messes when I was all by myself, doing something I really didn't know how to do. Sometimes I didn't even know what I was doing at the time, I was just messin' round, and look what happened.

When I began riding a motorcycle, I didn't know anyone else who rode, so I rode alone. I was the sole member of the IRC (Independent Riding Club.) Or, Irresponsible 'Recking Crew. Idiot Rider of Casper, WY. If my wife wouldn't ride with me back in those days, I'd ride all by myself all over the mountains and prairies. She didn't go much; she didn't see the abstract beauty in abject terror. She did see me coming home with the torn up riding clothes and all manner of road rash and broken stuff, though. She could have had an unmarked grave at the bottom of some canyon up-side of Casper Mountain as I slung her off the back of that old machine going around that hairpin, if she'd been crazy enough. Then she wouldn't have had those babies she carried around for nine months poppin' out and needing to be cared for . . . still, after all these years! Being out there all independent is sure the life to live, but it limits you to only one perspective - your own. And sometimes I don't see things quite straight on. That's when it's good to set aside that independence and get with others for awhile. They won't really rob you of your freedom, they make keep you from breaking it into small pieces. You see, the American ideal is not intended to let me do whatever I want, whenever. It is about establishing a society that guarantees freedom and teaches

us how to utilize it for the benefit of all. If I were teaching you how to ride a motorcycle, I'd want to make sure you knew not to ride it off a cliff or into the lake. I know that limits your freedom, but it is also good for you. That's also why you don't celebrate 4th of July by setting off fireworks inside your living room.

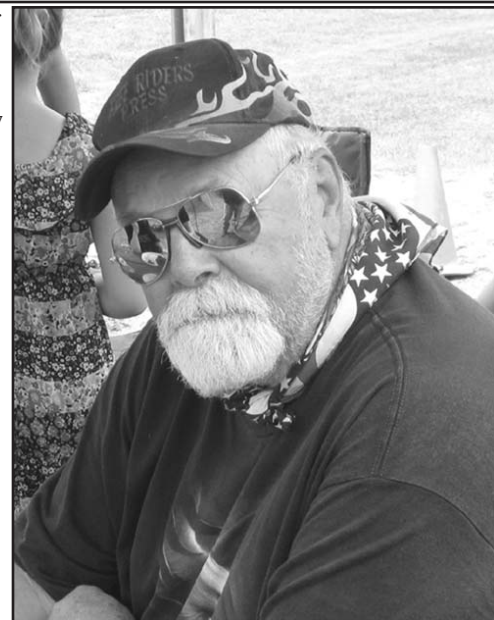
When God made human beings, He designed them to be able to take care of themselves - after appropriate training - and to think for themselves. He also designed them to depend on Him for many things. We find where we have come from, what we are to be doing while here, and where we go next, by reading God's Book, the Bible. We may think that God has left us alone, to make our own way, but He has not. He has a plan in mind for all of us, and we can find out that God wants to work in, with, and through us to accomplish His purpose. We can insist on being independent from Him, and He will seem to go away and leave us alone. One day, we will realize we've made a bigger mess than we can clean up, and when looking around for someone to help, we'll find that He is not far off if we call out for His help. "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Read it in Romans 10:13 of the New Testament of the Bible. Come by faith, trusting in Him for Eternal Life, and put away all those empty things that you have been doing to try out your freedom. He will not remove your freedom, He will give you more, and teach you how to really utilize and enjoy it. Depending on the Lord gives you freedom from the influences and deceptions of the world, which are designed to destroy your freedom. "If the Son (Jesus) sets you free, you shall be free indeed." Read it in the Gospel of John, chapter 8, verse 36. You may then experience real Independence Day, in Jesus Christ.

Pastor Sam

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FROM THE DESK OF JOE WEIGEL:

What a difference a climate makes! In March I took my '92 Lowrider to Orlando Harley to buy a new battery. Temp was 80 degrees. I was wearing jeans and a t-shirt. About 3p.m while at the dealer a group of about 30 returned from a "ride". Every one wearing a leather jacket and most wearing chaps and gloves and boots. What do they do when the temp drops to 70?

THE INDEPENDENT SHOP ASSOCIATION