

EQUALITY

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"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

This pledge was originally composed by Francis Bellamy (1855-1931) who was a socialist minister. It was originally published in The Youth's Companion on September 8, 1892. Bellamy hoped that the pledge would be used by citizens in any country. It was in 1923 that the words "the Flag of the United States of America" were added; and in 1954, in response to the Communist threat, President Eisenhower encouraged Congress to add the words "under God." (<http://www.ushistory.org/documents/pledge.htm>)

Many have recited these words over the years, and many have died to defend all that the flag of the United States of America stands for. Today, however, many now question, "What does this flag represent?" Are we "one nation under God?" Do we promote "liberty and justice for all?"

There seems to be no doubt that we have become much more secular since the time that the words "under God," were placed into this pledge. Public prayer in schools has been declared illegal. The Ten Commandments have been removed from our Court Houses and other public places. Nativity scenes and other "Christian" symbols of faith have been banned from public places. The minority of non-Christian citizens has been steadily increasing and may soon become the majority. In an effort not to offend anyone, God has been banned from our public society. We say "public" because for the time being, United States citizens are still free to practice whatever faith they like in the "privacy" of their homes and places of worship.

The time has arrived when religious, dressed in the habit, must hesitate to speak of religious matters in public places. They can now be accused of "solicitation" or "proselytizing" and will be asked to leave. Wearing the habit, invites many to see and often question religious concerning religious matters. This naturally occurs frequently in public places. When two strangers meet in the grocery store and strike up a conversation they are not asked to leave, but if one is a religious it seems he is breaking the law. Two strangers are allowed to exchange contact information without any problem, but if a religious give someone a business card, he is looked upon as breaking the regulations against "solicitation." Are we becoming so secular that we have arrived at the state of Communism, where religious must not be seen publicly displaying any signs of their belief or station in life? In the pledge we recognize "liberty and justice for all." Anyone who has had the "pleasure" to travel through our airports since the creation of the "TSA" sees clearly that we are no

longer free. Our liberty to travel, without being harassed by un-constitutional search and seizure, no longer exists. No longer are we to be presumed innocent until proven guilty. Now, everyone who attempts to use air travel is presumed guilty until he is proven innocent.

All “rights” are now “legally” denied to the weakest and youngest members of our society – those who have not yet even opened their eyes to the light of this world – the preborn. How can we profess “liberty and justice for all” when we do nothing to protect those who need the most protection?

We have fought to recognize the fact that African Americans are real men. They are not animals, or property; nor are they three-fifths of a person. We fought that women should be counted as whole citizens as well. Only when we can equally say that every person conceived in this world is a true and whole person and citizen will we be able to say that we promote “liberty and justice for all.” What many have begun to confuse with liberty or freedom, is “equality.” Our society has gone out of its way to promote the idea that everyone is equal (except of course those who have not completed nine months of gestation). There is an element of truth in the fact that we are all equal, but there has been a tendency to take this to an illogical extreme, that has led us down the path of Socialism and Communism.

Every member of humankind is equal in the fact that we, each and every one, have been created in the image and likeness of God and have been given by Him an immortal soul. We have all been created for, and called to, an eternal union with Him in Heaven. This is about the extent of our equality. In just about everything else we are different. We have been created male and female. It is foolishness to try to force any equality here. Men are never going to be able to compete with women on equal bases. Only women are capable of fulfilling the functions of wife and mother. The greatest honor and privilege of cooperating with God in the creation of new life that women possess can never be done by men. Nor will women ever be able to do what God has created men to do. This is evident in sports where we have made separate teams for men and women. Why can we not accept this fact in the rest of our society? Not only, are there physical differences, but there are many psychological, emotional, and spiritual differences. These differences do not make one greater or lesser, but rather complement one another.

Even within the same gender we are vastly different. Not every man can become a star athlete, nor can every man perform surgery or engineer a space craft. God has given some the gift of leading and guiding and others the gift to follow and obey. Some God has given wealth and power, others He has given talent or strength. We are each admonished by God and the Church to understand the gifts and talents that He has given to us and develop and increase them for the greater honor and glory of God; and for the benefit of ourselves and our neighbors.

We are the reflection of God; made in His image and likeness. However, we are finite creatures and He is infinite. We will never be able to display within ourselves all of the limitless attributes of God. Men reflect some of God’s attributes, and women reflect other attributes of God. In a similar manner, we see that each person, as well as the various races or nationalities, reflect different aspects of God’s attributes.

We are all different and we are all necessary. God has created each and every one of us for a reason. Equality of persons is not even logically desirable. What is beautiful and wonderful in each of us are our differences. When we live in right order, we complement and complete one another. A world with only men or only women would be a very boring and sad world. A world with only leaders and no followers is pointless. There are differences because there must be differences. Without differences we cease to be unique, we cease to be special, we cease to have a purpose, we cease to be human, we cease to be what God intends us to be. Communism is evil because it denies God, but also because it seeks to destroy the differences in men. In the attempt to make men equal, Communism destroys them.

Recently, we have observed that there is a desire to give all our children and citizens equal educations, and equal share in the rewards of our society and nation. Once we accept that we are each unique with differing attributes, gifts, or talents, it seems quite illogical to insist that everyone receive identical "education." It is even more illogical to expect that this identical "education" should produce identical results. All the governmental mandating, and/or testing in the world is never going to produce uniform results. People are not things or machines that can be processed in a factory assembly line that turns out equal and uniform products. Governmental mandates upon our schools and teachers to do this is demanding the impossible. When we demand the impossible from people, we will drive them to stop trying and give up, or we will drive them mad. This will never produce better teachers, schools, or students.

If we desire to have the best education possible, we must begin by recognizing that everyone is different. This is not a bad, thing but is something good that we must strive to cultivate, develop, and promote. No two students will ever be equal or identical, and no two teachers will ever be equal or identical. This is not something we should be trying to remove, but rather something that should be encouraged.

Not every child is going to become proficient in the humanities. Some will find that they will excel in humanities, others will find an inclination to the sciences, some will find that they have no interest or aptitude for either. Some teachers will be able to impart knowledge well to some students. Never will there be one teacher that can have the same effect upon every student that enters his classroom. We say never, but that is not quite correct, if we are to insist on applying governmental mandates of equality, we can achieve this by reducing everyone to the "least common denominator." If we change the entire definition of education and teach a basic conformity that neither develops nor challenges the students to reach their God given potential, then we can produce an equality of mediocrity. The level of that mediocrity will sink lower and lower with each succeeding generation. This is far from uplifting and inspiring but is rather very depressing and demoralizing. It seems that we are already seeing the demoralizing effects of this "equality" of education in the depressed and demoralized youth of today. Depression in our youth is at all-time record highs. Psychotic medications are routinely prescribed for our youth. Suicides are at record levels. Crime and depravity are now commonplace today.

The joy of life has been sucked out of them by a misdirected promotion of "equality." Life is wonderful, when we see the beauty and uniqueness of ourselves as well as all those around us.

When we can see different manifestations of God's perfections in each person there is a desire to meet and understand one another. If we are all identical, there is no need to meet or understand anyone else; and we logically become isolated from one another. There seems to be an ever-increasing isolation in our society. This, is obviously a great evil; first, because it is in violation of God's command to love one another; secondly, because it deprives us of the opportunity to learn of different perspectives, gifts and talents that God has given to us; lastly, because it prevents us from reaching our greatest potential. St. Augustine tells us that others bring out the best or the worst in each of us. We are never as good as we can be when we are alone, nor are we as bad as we can be when alone. He advises us to choose good and virtuous friends and associates that will bring out the best in us, so that we develop and become what God intends us to be.

What is said in regard to education, is likewise applicable to every aspect of our lives. What makes nations great is an appreciation and development of the differing God given graces and talents. Conformity is necessary for a society to prosper, but mandating an equality is counterproductive, if not outright destructive to people, and societies. Those who have intellectual gifts must be encouraged to develop them to their fullest potential. Those who have physical talents must be encouraged, likewise, to reach their fullest potential. In the marketplace, we need to understand and appreciate that "capital" and "labor" should not be enemies, but rather should work together; they need each other. They should not be out to use each other but seek to aid and help one another. The vocation of the farmer should not be despised but honored and respected. After all, we need farmers, because they produce everyone's bread and butter. The janitor and garbage collector are just as necessary (perhaps even more necessary) as the doctor and lawyer. Though each is better or greater in their fields than those who are not in their fields, one is not greater than the other for this. They form a beautiful complement to one another and make a more perfect whole.

Christ sent out His Apostles to make disciples of all nations. The Church seeks to bring to everyone at all times the graces of salvation. She does not seek to make all men equal or the same but sees the beauty of God in men of all nations, and races. There is room in the Church for everyone regardless of their intellectual capacities, the strength in their bodies, or the color of their skin. The only conformity that is required is a conformity in the Faith. "Those who believe and are baptized will be saved." As we seek to bring all races and nations together in the One True Church, we need also to respect and honor the differences that God has given to each of us.

If we understand that all are made by God, and all are made in His image and likeness, then we will find it easier to love them as we ought, and we can perhaps come to a more perfect view and understanding of God Himself. If we love God, then we will love all that He has made. In loving each other for the love of God, we come to a greater knowledge of God, and thus we come to a greater love of God. This in turn inspires us to a greater love of one another. Day by day, we should be increasing in the love of God and of our neighbors. This is the will of God and the mission, not only of the Church, but of nations and all of mankind.