

A Biblical Look at Independence

in-de-pen-dent *adj.* (www.thefreedictionary.com)

1. Not governed by a foreign power; self-governing.
2. Free from the influence, guidance, or control of another or others; self-reliant: *an independent mind.*
3. Not determined or influenced by someone or something else; not contingent: *a decision independent of the outcome of the study.*
4. often **Independent** Affiliated with or loyal to no one political party or organization.
5. Not dependent on or affiliated with a larger or controlling entity: *an independent food store; an independent film.*
6. a. Not relying on others for support, care, or funds; self-supporting. b. Providing or being sufficient income to enable one to live without working: *a person of independent means.*

We declared to be independent of England, to do what we believed was right before God. Never was it seen as total, absolute independence. When using "independent", we must always qualify it. No one is independent except God: Yahweh, or Jehovah, I Am That I Am, the Self-Existent One.

The word is misused or misunderstood regarding children, churches, and nations. There are many things that we are never truly independent of in this life. Here are five of them as revealed in God's Word:

1. _____ – We Are Never Independent From God

- **God's Word** (Matt 4:4 – Man does not live by bread alone...)
- **God's Mandates** (John 14:15 - If you love Me...; 1 Jn 5:2-3)
- **God's Holiness** (1 Pet 1:15-16 - Be holy, for I am holy)
- **God's Creative Power** (Col 1:16-17 – Holds all things together) + Natural Laws Resulting from His Creative Power & Design
- **God's Divine Control** (Turns the heart of king; Eph 1:11)

2. _____ – We Are Never Independent From Our God-Assigned Family Responsibilities

- To Our **Parents** (Eph 6:1-3)
- To Our **Children** (Eph 6:4)
- To Our **Grand-Children** (Psalm 78:1-6)
- To Our **Needy Extended Family** (1 Tim 5:8)

3. _____ – We Are Never Independent From God's Appointed Leadership

- Parental (Eph 6:1-3)
- Civil (Rom 13:1-7)
- Spiritual (Heb 13:7,17; 1 Peter 5:5)

Northridge Baptist Church – Pastor Kevin Subra – July 3, 2011

4. _____ – We Are Never Independent From Sin & Its Consequences

- **Sin's Call** (Rom 7:23-24; James 1:13-15)
(Rom 6:12) Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.
- **Sin's Consequences**
(1 Pet 4:15) But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.

5. _____ – We Are Never Independent From God's Judgment

- **Every Act**
(Mat 12:36) But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.
- **Every Person** (Matt 25:31-46; Phil 2:9-11)
(2 Tim 4:1) I charge *you* therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:
 - **Believers**
(Rom 14:10-12) ¹⁰ But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. ¹¹ For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God." ¹² So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.
(2 Cor 5:9-10) ⁹ Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
 - **Unbelievers**
(Rev 20:11-15) ¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Are you living as though you are independent? If so, you are deceived and you need to repent. God has created us, designed life as it should be, and calls us to live by His grace as we live in dependence upon Him as He deserves, and as He designed.