

THE MAGDALENE

The Liberty of God vs. The Liberty of Man



To see just how far the natural man and his depraved mind are from the holy mind of God, take the following quote from a prominent Supreme Court Justice. “At the heart of liberty is the right to define one’s own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life.” This quote simplifies and summarizes exactly where the sinful mind of man is.

Liberty here is defined as the right of every individual (“one’s own”) man, woman and child, to determine for himself, his existence, the meaning of the universe, and the mystery of human life. In other words, we are free (and by implication, cannot be told by anyone else) how to live, what to think or do, or even what the meaning of things such as the universe and human life are.

After reading this quote, do not for a moment ever again wonder why our culture is heading in the direction it is right now. If one subscribes to this understanding of liberty, then it grants to every individual the right to challenge even the natural things God has determined and assigned.

This is why we are now faced with people taking issue with the way God has created them and are striking out on their own to determine for *themselves* what *they* determine is right for *them*. This is modern-day *liberty*. Everyone is the master of their own fate, the captain of their own soul.

So, first why is this happening? To answer this, we must once again hearken back to the Old Testament to the source of all things. “Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:1-5 ESV) The key phrase here is: “Did God really say?” This question continues to be whispered into the ears of men and they continually respond as Eve did. They see the way in which God orders things, determine for themselves that it should not be that way, and then they set out to pervert God’s order and form it to their own liking.

St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church
205 So. Glassell Street
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www.stmarymagdaleneacc.org

Rev. Fr. Neil Edlin, Rector

Sunday Services:
8am Mass
10am Choral Mass &
Children’s Sunday School

Wednesday Service &
Anointing of the Sick; 9am

No matter what anyone says, the Bible says that true liberty is not self-determination, but obedience and submission to God and His Holy Laws. Those who choose to set their own course of self-determination are in serious sin and rebellion against God. In fact, the Bible says that they are slaves, not liberated. They are slaves to sin.

So what does God say about liberty? The Bible tells us at least two things. 1. We are all by nature fallen and our will to seek after God and find true liberty does not exist, and 2. Once we become Christians, we are liberated from sin. The definition of liberty is radically new and exactly the opposite of how the world (and even the Supreme Court) defines it. Read Romans 1:18-32 before you proceed.

So from Romans 1 we learn that God is wrathful against all ungodliness and unrighteousness committed by men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness. We learn that though they know God, they do not honor Him as God but become futile in their thinking (i.e. slaves). The natural lusting of fallen man is through his own fallen heart and consequently he dishonors God by exchanging the truth about God for dishonorable passions. Natural relations between the sexes are perverted. Things contrary to nature are their desire. So man is naturally in bondage. There is no liberty here. Though he freely chooses things against God's order, he is not free at all. He is a slave to sin.

On the other hand, look at what the Bible tells us about liberty! At some point in our lives, God calls us to Himself. He removes the heart of stone. Gives us a heart of flesh. He gives us a desire to know Him and to love all that He commands. When we become Christians and submit to the will of God, there is therefore now no condemnation for us. The law of the Spirit of life has set us free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death." (Romans 8:1-2). "The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." (2 Cor. 3:17). "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do

not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." (Gal 5:1).

Freedom and liberty are not defined by how much we can control our own circumstances or create our own happiness. Liberty is not the right to define one's own concept of existence. God defines what existence is. The world defines existence as autonomy and self-governance. The Christian defines existence as submitting to the will of Christ. The world defines meaning in whatever has meaning to each individual. The Christian defines meaning as that which God prescribes and commands. The world defines the universe as impossibly old, coming into existence from nothing, and aimless. The Christian defines the world as created by God and created very good, though fallen and awaiting full redemption. The world defines the mystery of life as something to be conquered by science and if that can't be done, then terminated. The Christian understands the mystery of life as created by God, loved by God and redeemed by God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

What the Supreme Court pronounces and rules impacts our lives. Their influence has far reaching implications. The pronouncement we have discussed here in this article is false and runs counter to all that the Christian faith teaches. Pray that God, in His mercy will continue to change the hearts of enslaved men who think this way and bring them into the glorious (and true) liberty of knowing and following Him.

CHECK IT OUT !

St. Mary Magdalene Church has launched a new website. It's still the same address. Find us at:

www.stmarymagdaleneacc.org

The Unity of the Church: **A Reflection on Acts 8:14-17**

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:14-17 ESV

In reading Acts on Tuesday in Pentecost, we find something quite odd. Philip had been evangelizing in Samaria and many were baptized, but Luke tells us that they did not receive the Holy Spirit in their baptism. It wasn't until they summoned Peter and John from the mother Church in Jerusalem to come and lay their hands on those who had been baptized that they received the Spirit. Pentecostal churches would point to this verse as biblical proof that a second work or 'baptism of the Spirit' is needed to be truly Christian. While a cursory reading of this text could point this way, I nonetheless believe that this view fails to do justice to the larger narrative of Acts and the point that Luke is trying to highlight. We must first recognize that the ordinary way in which God gives the Spirit is through conversion at baptism. "And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" (Acts 2:38-39) So right away, we see that this is an extraordinary case, the very fact that Luke deems it necessary to mention that they had not received the Spirit at baptism shows that it was something unexpected.

There are a few important reasons why I believe that God chose to delay the giving of the Spirit in this case. In order to understand the first reason, we must recall that Jews and Gentiles, especially Samaritans didn't exactly get along. And in the larger narrative of Acts, this is the

beginning of the spread of the Gospel outside the walls of Jerusalem. The apostles, in this case Peter and John, thus play an important role of affirming the evangelistic work that is being done amongst the Gentiles. Their actions validate the fact that the salvation of God is intended for both Jew *and* Gentile. The second reason is closely connected with the first. Luke wants to highlight and demonstrate the importance of the ministry of the apostles as representatives of the unity of Christ's body, that is, the Church.

There is an inseparable connection between the Church and the work of the Spirit, and this is what Luke is trying to emphasize. As Anglicans, we believe that the bishops are the successors of the apostles. What this means is that they execute a similar ministry as the apostles did. So when we come to receive the laying on of hands from the bishop at Confirmation, we are reminded that we are being incorporated into the body of Christ, that existed before us throughout the ages. While our "personal relationship" with Jesus is important we must never fail to recognize the corporate identity of our faith. We are the Body, and we cannot exist without one another.

In Christ+
Deacon Kevin Craik

The Rev. Kevin Craik currently serves as a pastoral intern at Holy Trinity Church. Deacon Kevin received a Master of Arts Degree in Biblical Studies from Talbot School of Theology and was ordained a transitional deacon in January 2016. Both Kevin and his wife, Melissa, are Southern California natives and currently reside in Anaheim. They welcomed their first son, Jameson, into the world in June 2015.

ORDO CALENDAR ACTIVITIES

JUNE 11 COMMEMORATES ST. BARNABAS

St. Barnabas comes as close as anyone outside the Twelve to being an apostle. He was closely associated with St. Paul (he introduced Paul to Peter and the other apostles) and served as a mediator between the former persecutor and the suspicious Jewish Christians. Barnabas is spoken of simply as one who dedicated his life to the Lord. He was a man "filled with the Holy Spirit and faith.

When a Christian community developed at Antioch, Barnabas was sent as the official representative of the Church of Jerusalem to incorporate them into the fold. He and Paul instructed in Antioch for a year, after which they were sent to preach to the Gentiles. Even though they were very successful, all was not peaceful. They had to go to Jerusalem to clear up the controversy about circumcision. When returning, Paul wanted to revisit the places they had evangelized, Barnabas wanted to take John Mark, his cousin, author of the Gospel, but Paul insisted that he was not fit to take along. The disagreement that followed was so sharp that Barnabas and Paul separated, Barnabas taking Mark to Cyprus, Paul taking Silas to Syria. Later, they were reconciled – Paul, Barnabas and Mark.

Read Acts 4:32, 14:8-18 and 34-37.

GUILDS, GROUPS & EVENTS

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEVER CEASES

Take a breather men! There will be no Men's Fellowship events hosted in June but you are

still not off the hook. June 5th, Bishop Scarlett arrives for Confirmation Services. There will be no Men's devotional that morning at 9:00AM, and no Morning Prayer due to use of the Nave for practice for the Confirmations. However, I am counting on you to see that visitors coming to the 10am service that day be greeted and notified of the day's events. We will need 4 men to help set up/tear down the tables and chairs after the 8am service. Please let Lou know asap.

The Men will come together again on June 19th, after 10am Mass, to study "Outline of an Anglican Life". Any man interested in diving into the nuts and bolts of Anglicanism definitely should not miss this discussion. We will be gathering in the Narthex.

THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL BE HERE!

Bishop Scarlett will be attending the **10am Mass on June 5th** to perform the **Sacrament of Confirmation** for Gianna Defusco and Denise Abbott. Please remember that those who



come late will need to use the alternate parking lot behind the little red pre-school house due to the parking situation. Maps are in the Narthex.

We will have a Pot Luck reception after the service. If you would like to participate please sign up to bring a dish on the list in the Narthex. Dessert will be provided. Any questions, please contact Karen Carlson.

WOMEN DEVOTE TIME FOR PRAYER

Since the Women **will not be meeting on the first Sunday in June**, Karen is asking us to set aside time in the wee



hours of the morning to pray in private for Gianna and Denise who will be confirmed that day.

DATE FOR PACK-A-SACK

The **PAC-A-SACK project** for Mary's Kitchen & Homeless Shelter will be held on **June 11th from 9am – 10am**. Volunteers need to gather into the Parish House. The first 10 volunteers will be assigned to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. The next arrivals will get to set up tables and sort the food for assembly. Once the sandwiches are done, Violet will organize us in assembly line fashion to finish the job.

We are asking for 3 men to assist with carrying and transporting the food into their own vehicles. Please let Fr. Neil know, if you can help out. The total travel time is approximately 20 minutes.

PAY-IT FORWARD

Did you know that your kindness given to someone is repaid? St. Paul says, "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work."

Our next New2U Sale will be held on June 25th from 8:00am to 2:00pm. Please join us for the next sale as a SHOPPER, not to buy but to be kind to those who have labored to offer the gifts you have given, available to others so that they may, in turn, give a gift in kindness to someone else.

Watch for announcements in the Narthex on volunteer opportunities.

A CHANGE IN PLANS

This year St. Mary Magdalene will not have a large fundraiser to support our two missions:

Mary's Kitchen and our Mission Church in Venezuela. Instead plans have been made to have a series of in-house brunches for a nominal cost. All proceeds from any paid church event and including New2U sales will be collected for these missions. Please help us to help them. Plan to come and eat with us.

Burger Bash 6/26

Brown Bag Lunch & Lecture Series 7/3 & 8/7

In-House Brunch 8/28 & 10/23

HOW ABOUT A GREAT BURGER FOR 4TH SUNDAY BRUNCH

Join us for a good old-fashioned Burger Bash. The Men will be barbequing Hamburgers on June's 4th Sunday Brunch at the church around 11:30am. The Cost is \$6.50 per person. Children 6yrs and under are free. Please remember to sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex. Where else can you get a great burger meal with all of the fixin's and great fellowship at the same time? Come and join in the fun.

THE NEWS REPORT.....

A SPECIAL THANKS

The Craft Guild would like to thank EVERYONE who showed up for the Craft Guild last month. Wow, it was great fun. Everyone showed up with their latest projects such as hanging pots, coil baskets, jeweled boxes, bell scarves, baby blankets, pocket scarves, etc. Please watch for the next demonstration flyer in the Narthex.

WELCOMING BABY COCHRAN

While the ladies were enjoying a lunch at Katella Grill, the men were eating bratwurst and swapping stories of fatherhood. Lisa received many nice gifts and the men contributed enough diapers for a few months. Thanks to all that attended.

A STORY ABOUT MARY & JESUS

Right after the last New2U sale, it was decided that we should take a few of the men's things to Mary's Kitchen so we bagged up a few t-shirts and shoes for me to drive over. In early May, I went on my usual visit to Mary's Kitchen to drop off of clothes, shoes and groceries collected from the congregation. While I was talking with Gloria Seuss, Director, one of the ladies in charge that day, asked her if there was a pair of steel toe work boots in one of the containers. There was a man who needed a pair at that time or he would not be able to start a new job the following morning. She said that she could not find any. To my astonishment, I proclaimed, yes! I have a pair in the bags I just brought. So, we all went out to my car to unload and get the pair of boots. I couldn't believe it. The boots were the perfect size and the man was so grateful. I am so blessed to be involved in this effort. God has perfect timing and provision. Had I not gone when I did and had we at SMM not gotten that pair of work boots, this story would not have happened. Thank you all who give your time and goods for our missions. We are truly spreading or Lord's blessings.

Violet Younis, SMM Outreach Coordinator

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

The marriage between Shahzad and Sobia on May 18th was performed by Bishop Andrew in Pakistan.

ANYONE CAN TALK TO FR. NEIL

St. Mary Magdalene Church is a conservative, traditional Anglican church. We report only to Archbishop Mark Haverland, head of the Anglican Catholic Communion. If you want to chat, please leave a message with a name and phone number. All calls are welcome and will be returned, (714) 532-2420.

MIKE LEVAN PERFORMS

Change your calendar. Mike Levan will not be performing at the BACI Restaurante, 18748 Beach Blvd, Huntington Beach on May 28th. He will be performing there on June 11th at 7pm.

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

JUNE		
Bible Study	6/1	6:30 pm
Women's Devotional	6/5	CANCELLED
Men's Fellowship	6/5	CANCELLED
Confirmation and Bishop's Pot Luck	6/5	After 2 nd Mass
Vestry	6/8	7:15pm
Mary's Kitchen Pack-A-Sack Event	6/11	9am- 10am
Men's Group	6/12	11:30am
Women's Guild	6/12	11:30am
Bible Study	6/15	6:30 pm
Craft Guild	6/19	11:30am
Bible Study	6/22	6:30 pm
Men's Fellowship Event	6/23	6:30pm
New2U Sale	6/25	8:00am – 2:00pm
Sunday Burger Bash	6/26	Noon
Bible Study	6/29	6:30pm
JULY		
Men's Fellowship	7/3	9:00am - 9:30am
Women's Devotional	7/3	9:15am – 9:50am
Brown Bag Lecture- What is a Cult?	7/3	11:45am
Bible Study	7/6	6:30pm
Men's Group	7/10	11:30am
Women's Guild	7/10	11:30am
Vestry Meeting	7/13	7:15pm
Craft Guild	7/17	11:30am
Bible Study	7/20	6:30pm
Patronal Community Barbeque	7/24	After 2 nd Mass
Bible Study	7/27	6:30pm