

6-8-2023 - Why Are We Here?

Some of us “Aged Enhanced” Legion Family may remember Bill Cosby’s Comedy Routine of “Why is there Air”. Obviously to fill Basket Balls, but what about us? Why ARE we here? By my Faith, God created all we see around us, in space, on this earth, and everything that is. He also put US here. He put us here to be thankful to Him and to worship Him for His mercy and grace. But did He also do it for us individually for our own self-seeking success, or are we here to live with others and to help others as well?

We learn to the book of Exodus when Moses was leading the Israelites out of their bondage in Egypt to the Promised Land, the God gave them, and us all, the Ten Commandments for us to follow and NOT break our relationship with God and each other. Those Ten Commandants can still be found in and around Washington D.C. as a reminder to us all our country was founded upon Judeo-Christian Beliefs. Our Constitution and Bill of Rights further let us know of our rights and freedoms to worship however and wherever we wish.

But what are those Commandments there for? Many view them as restrictions in how we live and treat each other. But, is that the whole meaning? Rather than “Restrictions” in how we live, are they not a “Road Map” and “Directions” in how we can live in peace and harmony with EACH OTHER. We are told by Jesus in the New Testament, we should not just Love our God above everything else, but also to love our neighbor, and that in doing so, we fulfill the Law that God has given us. If we Love our neighbor, we wouldn’t WANT to kill him or her, we wouldn’t WANT to steal from them, we wouldn’t WANT to lie to or about him or her, or do any other harm to them, but help and support them in any way that that we can. Jealousy or deceit has no place where Love is concerned in our relationships with other, or OURSELVES. But, with Love there IS Forgiveness and Caring for each other. So, within the Ten Commandments, we have been giving those “Roadmaps” to success in our lives with each other.

Most of the Laws that man has developed over the years in our country are, again, those “Roadmaps” to success in our relationships with each other. For us, within the American Legion, we also have “Roadmaps” to success. They are called our Constitution and Bi-Laws of The American Legion. Within those, we also have our Four Pillars, which give us a direction in how we can help others, our Veterans and their families and children. If we honor and follow them, we are successful in our endeavors for The American Legion and our Country. If we do NOT, problems will develop, as we have too often seen. When we become “Self-Serving” or deceitful in our efforts, we lose those things that our forefathers designed for us over the last one hundred plus years of laying out what we should be all about. All these things are not how we put ourselves above others, but how we put others before ourselves. Isn’t THAT a definition of Love and an example of “Love Thy Neighbor”?

This has little to do with what religion you believe in, or do not believe, which is your choice. It does have to do with showing respect for each other, caring for each other, Loving each other, BEING THE ONE for each other, and helping each other along that path to success for all of our wellbeing. The Freedoms that we have must not be taken for granted, or abused, but cherished and to be worthy of those that have given of their very lives to sustain our Freedoms, and to our God for his mercy and grace that we live in a land of Liberty.

YES, we do have challenges in our American Legion of Washington, but we all must believe in what our Forefathers set before us and be worthy of the sacrifices made to move forward, forgive those things that have led us down a wrong path, and show the Love for each other as God has shown us. Our path is not an easy one, but together, WITH each other, we can and will succeed. If we keep our "Preamble" and "For God And Country" in our hearts and minds, we can be prosperous in helping ourselves and our country and our Veterans and their families.

I pray: ***Teach us, O God, that only by exemplifying in our everyday lives the love and service of You, Creator and Liberator of mankind, and the love of our fellow man – teach us, I pray, that only by the exercise of these virtues of love and service may we hope to achieve that peace for which the brokenhearted human race now yearns, that peace which is the tranquility of order, that peace which is the product of justice, that peace which can come only to men and women of good will and love. Amen.***