

Outrage over Bill of Rights

Several years ago, a couple of reporters conducted an experiment on the streets of Miami, Florida.

They printed a copy of the Bill of Rights in the form of a petition, put it on a clipboard, and then stopped people on the sidewalk and asked them to sign it.

As you know, the first 10 amendments to the United States Constitution make up the Bill of Rights, and they were adopted and put into effect in December of 1791.

The reporters were surprised at people's reaction when asked to add their names to the so-called petition. Most people glanced at the document, shook their heads, and walked on by without signing. Several people became angry with the reporters and accused them of being radical enemies of the American way of life.

In fact, the experiment ended when the reporters found themselves surrounded by a dozen or so passersby who were shaking their fists at them and calling them subversive Communists who ought to be thrown in jail.



What the experiment demonstrated is what we already know. Many citizens of the United States pay lip service to their country and its heritage. They claim to be loyal and patriotic in every way. They say they are proud to belong to a country as great as ours.

And yet, at the same time, they haven't the vaguest notion what the United States Constitution actually says, and they consider the Bill of Rights to be a radical, anti-American

document. In other words, these people claim citizenship, but they have not internalized the basic meaning of being a citizen. They assert the privilege, but they will not eat and drink the ethos of the United States of America.

The shame of it all is that 651,008 deaths of Americans in battles have occurred in all our wars, and about 1.2 million deaths during service in wartime. About 42 million people have served in the military during wartime. These are men and women who gave their lives to protect the freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

On the spiritual side, the same sort of situation is described in the Bible. Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world" (John 6:51 NIV).

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Most people probably think Jesus is talking about communion. He isn't. He's talking about the difference between external lip service and internal embodiment. He's talking about the difference between admiring Him and actually taking up one's cross and following Him. He's talking about the difference between acting like a Christian on the outside and being a Christian on the inside.

– Beecher Hunter