Redefining Equality:

The Declaration asserts that:

“we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.”
Redefining Equality:

The Greek word for equality is isotes = proportionality, fairness.

*II Cor. 8:13* For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness.

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Redefining Equality:

By substituting the Declaration of Independence language regarding equality for the Biblical language of equality we are:

- Distorting how God really views equality
- We are losing the grandeur of God’s creative design in this area
Cultivating our Culture

Redefining Equality:

Doing my search for literature – found the idea of equality only dealing with:

1) Reconciliation angle
2) Oppression angle
3) Reparations (how to make people whole)

Cultivating our Culture

Redefining Equality:

So this morning let’s tackle this in a couple ways:

1) Why is it so problematic to buy into the American concept of equality?
2) What does God have to say in each of these areas?
Cultivating our Culture

Redefining Equality:

1) Why is it so problematic to buy into the American concept of equality?
   a) Flattens the differences between us

What does God say in this area?

We are uniquely created & our differences are celebrated (i.e. we are not the same)
Redefining Equality:

1) Why is it so problematic to buy into the American concept of equality?

   a) Flattens the differences between us

What does God say in this area?

*We are uniquely created & our differences are celebrated (i.e. we are not the same)*

*Oneness gains its real beauty from difference*

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Redefining Equality:

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What does God say in this area?

> *Joseph in Genesis* – born a Jew but emerges as the 2\textsuperscript{nd} most powerful man in all of Egypt next to Pharaoh

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**Cultivating our Culture**

Redefining Equality:

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What does God say in this area?

- **Joseph in Genesis** – born a Jew but emerges as the 2nd most powerful man in all of Egypt next to Pharaoh
- **Moses** – arguably the greatest leader in the History of Israel & the crucible of his leadership development was being caught between his Jewish lineage & his Egyptian upbringing

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**Cultivating our Culture**

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- **Moses** – arguably the greatest leader in the History of Israel & the crucible of his leadership development was being caught between his Jewish lineage & his Egyptian upbringing
- **Esther** – God elevated this Jewish woman as queen to a Persian king & utilized her to prevent Jewish genocide, & this only happened AFTER Mordecai challenged her to remember her cultural roots...meaning her differences from the Persians
Redefining Equality:

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   a) Flattens the differences between us

   What does God say in this area?

   - **Ruth** – She was a Moabite woman, hated by the Jews, marries a Jewish man & eventually becomes the Great grandparent of King David & eventually Jesus

   - **Daniel** – was a Jewish boy brought into Babylonian captivity, & somehow he held onto his Jewish heritage, his uniqueness, & was able to navigate his cultural identity in legendary ways
Cultivating our Culture

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- **Daniel** – was a Jewish boy brought into Babylonian captivity, & somehow he held onto his Jewish heritage, his uniqueness, & was able to navigate his cultural identity in legendary ways
- **Jesus** – Birthed from a Jewish mother to fulfill the promise God made to Abraham to save the world thru the Jews, He wore a Yamaka, He wore a Tzitzit (a small robe with tassels), He wore a tefillin which as a small box containing the Shema on his forehead and forearm
Cultivating our Culture

Redefining Equality:
1) Why is it so problematic to buy into the American concept of equality?
   a) Flattens the differences between us
   b) Fundamentally individualistic

Yedidia Stern – Prof. of Law at Bar Ilan Univ. in Tel Aviv
“People seek to imbue their lives with meaning & purpose. Radical liberalism does not address this basic human need. It guarantees the rights of the individual; “you” and “I” are well protected, but we are like separate atoms moving along independent tracks, revolving around ourselves in a vacuum.”

Cultivating our Culture

Redefining Equality:
1) Why is it so problematic to buy into the American concept of equality?
   a) Flattens the differences between us
   b) Fundamentally individualistic

What does God say in this area?

It is about being ONE while remaining completely different from each other

Eph. 2:14 “For He Himself is our peace, who has made us both (Jew & Gentile) one and has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility.”
Cultivating our Culture

Redefining Equality:

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What does God say in this area?

It is about being ONE while remaining completely different from each other

Gal. 3:26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. [27] For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. [28] There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. [29] And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Col. 3:11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.
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It is about being ONE while remaining completely different from each other

_Eph. 3:6_ This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

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Redefining Equality:

_I Cor. 12:4_ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; [5] and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; [6] and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. [7] To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. [8] For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, [9] to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, [10] to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. [12] For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. [13] For in one Spirit (i.e. not in equality) we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. [17] If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell?
Cultivating our Culture

Redefining Equality:

1) Why is it so problematic to buy into the American concept of equality?
   a) **Flattens the differences between us**
   b) **Fundamentally individualistic**
   c) **It plays directly into the hands of the enemy**

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Cultivating our Culture

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What does God say in this area?

*We are made in the Image of God*

*An image represents or resembles the one it pictures*
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What does God say in this area?

*Gen. 1:26* Then God said, “Let us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

[27] So God created man in his Own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. [28] And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
Redefining Equality:

1) Why is it so problematic to buy into the American concept of equality?
   a) Flattens the differences between us
   b) Fundamentally individualistic
   c) It plays directly into the hands of the enemy
   d) This is not where God is headed

Matt. 24:6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. [7] For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom,
Cultivating our Culture

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And what does God say?

One day God will bring us all together as one with our differences in tact
& He will then celebrate our differences side by side

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Cultivating our Culture

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And what does God say?

Rev. 21:22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. [23] And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. [24] By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, [25] and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. [26] They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.
Cultivating our Culture

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And what does God say?

**Rev. 7:9** After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, [10] and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”