

Nothing to Love About America?

by Marlene Peterson



An assignment was given to a Jr. High school class in Virginia in 2010—the students were to write about why they loved America. After the papers were turned in and graded, the teacher regretfully shared with the class that not one of them had come up with a single reason to love America.

What good is a balanced budget, fresh faces in Congress and getting “back” to the Constitution if the next generation doesn’t love America and value freedom? We, at Moms for America®, believe a love of liberty is best grown in the home. We suggest a simple solution: Starting tonight, put down the book, look your kids or grandkids in the eyes and tell them a story from your heart about why YOU love America. Pajamas are recommended. It’s a formula that has worked throughout history and around the globe. However, if you plan on stopping by your public library to pick up some American History books to take your stories from, you may want to reconsider.

The story our children are being told about America is not the same story children were told a hundred years ago. There are three key elements that are missing from today’s stories:

1. An acknowledgment that our system of government is the best system of government the world has ever seen and that it demands our

diligence in understanding and maintaining it.

2. The belief that freedom is a rare gift that can only be held onto by a moral and religious people who comprehend liberty in law.

3. The idea that our nation was raised up by the Hand of Divine Providence and that our inalienable rights come from God.

These three elements that are missing today, are the very three pillars the school children of yesterday were taught our Republic rested upon – our patriotism, our character and our faith. They were told they would be reminded of them every time they looked at our flag

The red stripes reminded them of the blood that was sacrificed for them and was a call to patriotism in defending their Constitution and freedom.

The white stripes stood for virtue and purity. They understood a limited government only worked among a people who understood the personal responsibilities of freedom and were capable of self-governance.

The white stars on a blue background reminded them of Heaven’s guiding and protective hand.

These wonderful writers of yesterday were so anxious to instill these principles in the hearts of the next generation, that they filled their stories with examples and reminders.

From time to time, I plant myself on the floor of a public library in front of the American History shelf and look for these principles in our modern books. I'm not finding them. On my most recent visit, I finally found a reference to Columbus' faith. But his claim that he felt inspiration from heaven is attributed to his malarial delirium. Thomas Jefferson is portrayed as a hypocritical slaveholder, but, hey, we're all human, aren't we? And the story of the genocide of the Native American is paraded over and over again. Not much to love.

It appears our three pillars are gradually being replaced with just one—money. Plymouth and its seekers of religious freedom is being replaced with Jamestown and its seekers of economic prosperity as the root of our nation. Most everyone seems to think that if the economy turns around, America will be just fine. But freedom is not the product of a strong economy. Rather, a strong economy is the product of freedom and freedom rests on the three pillars that are being systematically removed. What if that one pillar everyone is holding up—our economy—gives way? What then will hold us up?

Even Joseph Stalin recognized the secret of America's strength: "America is like a healthy body and its resistance is threefold: its Patriotism, its Morality, and its Spiritualism."

How "healthy" is America's body today?

We call on the mothers and fathers and grandparents of America to rebuild these three pillars. And the way we rebuild them is

through the stories we share heart-to-heart with our children and grandchildren. It is not in the classroom that we will restore America's liberty but in our homes.

Libraries of Hope has been gathering the stories of yesterday and reprinting them so they can be preserved in homes all across America. You can find them at librariesof-hope.com.

Discussion Questions

- ★ *It is difficult, almost painful, to see how quickly our country and culture are declining. So many youth and young adults are openly advocating for socialism and really believe the United States is to blame for all the ills of the world.*
- ★ *Where is this coming from? How can we change it?*
- ★ *What have you seen in your lifetime of the changing stories about America?*
- ★ *What do you believe is destructive about the three missing elements from today's story about America?*
- ★ *What are your thoughts on the relationship between freedom and the economy, as stated in the article?*
- ★ *What are some things we can do to instill a love of liberty and American patriotism in the hearts of our children?*