

## 1 American Pie

- What Does Independence Day Mean to You?

## 2 The Average American

- A former magazine writer by the name Kevin O'Keefe has written a book to find a list of criteria that fits most Americans.
- In his research, he looked at 140 character traits and found some very interesting discovers.

## 3 The Average American

- Traits of the Average Joe:
  - Nine friends
  - Drinks the milk out of his cereal bowl after he is finished.
  - Eats 25 pounds of candy a year.
  - Goes to bed before midnight.
  - Isn't famous and doesn't want to be.

- Believes in God and goes to church at least once per month.
- Is 36 years old and weighs 185 lbs.
- Can name all three of the Three Stooges.

#### 4 The Average American

- The Average Jill:
  - Doesn't drink her milk in her cereal bowl.
  - Orders more lattes than the Average Joe.
  - Says the word "precious" far more often.
  - Does 400 loads of laundry a year.
  - Drives 9,856 miles each year to soccer practices and Tupperware parties.
  - Just joined Weight Watchers for the third time.

#### 5 What is Average?

- According to the Dictionary, “average” can mean ordinary, mediocre, undistinguished, middle-of-the-road, unexceptional, amateurish, so-so, or plain-vanilla.
- Question – Does the religious practices of the average American seem like the type of faith that God expects from His people?

## 6 Is this Average?

## 7 Paul’s Problem

- I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world. (2 Cor. 10:2)
- Moral Mediocrity that was prevalent in society.
- Christians were using it as their standard instead the Word of God.
- Strongholds! (2 Cor. 10:5)

## 8 Strongholds

- According to Paul, strongholds are arguments, and pretensions. (2 Cor. 10:5)
- They were ways of thinking about serving God that in actuality kept them from experiencing and knowing God deeper.

## 9 What is Freedom?

- The freedom that we celebrate on the 4th of July is political freedom.
- However, for many Americans, freedom is a social right to do anything we want without restraint or interference.
- This stronghold has produced in society an attitude that says happiness comes from breaking rules and rejecting limits, including traditional social constraints on dress, speech, and behavior.

## 10 Freedom

- Freedom for Christians means freedom from the power of sin.
- It also means for Gentiles, freedom from the Mosaic Law with all its life intrusive food laws, rituals, and ceremonies.
- However, it does not mean we are free from the Lordship of Jesus.
- According to Romans 6, justification in Christ means we are now slaves to righteousness.

11  What Our World Needs

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