



You Just Might Be An American...

By Justin Case

All too often, we are asked to focus our attention on our differences and celebrate diversity rather than unity. Instead of making one out of many (“E Pluribus Unum”), we are constantly agitated to make many out of one. These artificial divisions weaken our sense of national identity and promote factional conflicts over peaceful order. They diminish the value of American culture and belittle our exceptional heritage. We are rarely asked to examine those principles which we, as Americans, hold in common. If we look at our core values, we will find that we are more alike than others would have us believe.

Read the following sentiments, and see where you stand in relation to traditional American ideals. If you agree with them – you just might be an American.

- If you believe that we are all created equal and that our lives have equal value – you just might be an American.
- If you believe that you have an unalienable right to live – you just might be an American.
- If you believe that liberty is your birthright – you just might be an American.
- If you believe that all political power ultimately resides in the people – you just might be an American.
- If you believe that “government even in its best state is but a necessary evil; in its worst state an intolerable one” – you just might be an American.
- If you believe that governments are created to protect your unalienable rights – you just might be an American.
- If you believe that we have the right to alter or abolish any form of government that is destructive of our unalienable rights – you just might be an American.
- If you believe that states are sovereign and the federal government is limited to the powers outlined in the U.S. Constitution – you just might be an American.
- If you believe that you are free to pursue happiness as you see fit, as long as you do not infringe on the unalienable rights of others – you just might be an American.
- If you believe you have a right to own private property – you just might be an American.
- If you believe you should have an equal opportunity to work in the field of your choice or own a business – you just might be an American.

- If you believe you have a right to buy and sell goods in a free market – you just might be an American.
- If you believe that you have a right to reap the benefits of your individual efforts – you just might be an American.
- If you believe that fair and open competition leads to quality and innovation – you just might be an American.
- If you believe that you should be held accountable for the consequences of your own decisions and actions – you just might be an American.
- If you believe that the family unit is the primary building block of society – you just might be an American.
- If you believe it is your responsibility to work hard to provide your family with a good home, quality food, and well-made clothing – you just might be an American.
- If you believe it is your responsibility to ensure that you and your children receive a quality education – you just might be an American.
- If you believe you have the right to make decisions regarding your health and the health of your children – you just might be an American.
- If you believe you have the right to choose what food you and your children will eat – you just might be an American.
- If you believe you have the right to exercise your religion, as long as you do not infringe on the unalienable rights of others – you just might be an American.
- If you believe you have the right to free speech, especially when criticizing your government – you just might be an American.
- If you believe you have the right to publish material freely in any medium – you just might be an American.
- If you believe you have the right to associate freely with others – you just might be an American.
- If you believe you have the right to assemble peaceably in public – you just might be an American.
- If you believe you have the right to petition your government for a redress of grievances – you just might be an American.

- If you believe you have a civic duty to educate yourself on political matters and carefully cast your vote in elections – you just might be an American.
- If you believe you have the right to be secure against unreasonable searches and seizures – you just might be an American.
- If you believe you have a right to privacy – you just might be an American.
- If you believe you have a right to equal protection under the law – you just might be an American.
- If you believe your government has a duty to secure the borders and protect you against foreign invasions – you just might be an American.
- If you believe you have the right to defend yourself and your family – you just might be an American.
- If you believe you have the right to defend liberty – you just might be an American.
- If you believe you have the duty to defend and preserve the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic – you just might be an American.

If you agree with all these sentiments – you just might be an American.

Hopefully, you will put aside the labels that have been used to divide us, and focus on how we can stand united against the forces that would destroy our country and our culture.

Read the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. Read the works of our founding fathers, and learn the real history of America. Rediscover the virtues of a limited government, and take action to restore the freedoms we have allowed to erode. Prepare yourself and your family to live free and independent lives.

Rousseau once wrote, "Liberty may be gained, but can never be recovered." Over the last 250 years, many people have pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to create and improve this bastion of freedom in the world. Let us not be the generation that loses freedom for all mankind.