

## WHAT IS NATIONALISM?

As we celebrate the independence of the Philippines, I cannot help but wonder why we are so divided as a nation. Everyone claims to love the country, even those who have rebelled against the government. All of them are saying that they do what they do because they are protecting this nation.

What is nationalism? Is it about love for our country and our fellowmen? If this is so, then why are we fighting each other and why is there so much division amongst us? I have no answer to these questions, but I would like to share with you what I believe nationalism is.

Para sa akin nationalism is to love the country that God gave me. Sabi sa John 3:27, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven." I was born a Filipino because God decided to make me one. He placed me here not because it is the best country in the world but because it is the best place for me.

But why am I here? I am here because God entrusted a portion of this country to me. Here, He gave me a land and a business to steward for Him. Therefore, if I love God I will love what He gave me and do my best to keep the garden He entrusted to me. As I take care of my portion, I will also try to influence others to take good care of their own portions too, so that, together, we can make this the best country for the Lord.

Nationalism to me is to love this country because I love the Lord. I will take care of it and love the Filipinos because this is what He wants me to do. I will support the government and its drive for justice because Deuteronomy 6 says it is justice that will bring peace to the land. I really believe you cannot truly be nationalistic if you do not love God and the things He entrusted to you.