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February 25, 2023
9:35pm-9:50pm

What is your idea of what the American Dream means to you? Is it just material success or does it have other components?

The American dream is something my grandmother had in mind when she found out she was pregnant at the age of 16. Her idea of the American dream was a new beginning and better opportunities for the child she was pregnant with. She took a chance and became a citizen at a young age. My parents and their parents always spoke of the hopes they had for me having all the opportunity I could possibly dream of being born and raised in America. They spoke of the advantage I had over some of my relatives who did not live in America and how I was set up for success. What is success in America? Is it solely a big home, fast car, good job? Because that is all I heard a lot about when I was younger.

I am second generation on my mother's side and fifth generation American on my dad's side. Revisiting the term American dream and what it means to me is opportunity, a certain level of a spoiled nature, and In God we Trust, as we see on our currency. In a lot of other countries, the American dream is viewed as material success, the large homes, nice cars a plethora of food. However, I do see our spoiled nature most of us have been able to purchase material items we do not need. Wasting food because it was too salty or not to our liking. People in other countries do not have that privilege like most of us do in America. My Grandmother would tell me stories of when she would wash her clothes in the river against rock because she and her family did not own a washer and dryer. She would never waste food or throw it away because that was unacceptable.

The American Dream is the aspect of wealth to most I would say. My idea of the American dream is that Americas should result back to In God We Trust and less of the material items it now seems to be revolved around. Perhaps that isn't just part of the American Dream instead maybe it is just sinful nature. I believe the American dream was supposed to be more about the health of a family rather than the wealth of a family. My idea of the American dream is when families would eat together and spend quality time together and attend Church as a family. A time when a person's integrity and morals were more important. When work ethic was more valued than nepotism. The dream of America has slowly changed and now we are seeing a lot more brokenness in homes because of the shift of the American Dream. Then again, the American dream is what you make it, after all this is the land of the free. Therefore, I hope for my own American Dream my family will consist of health, quality time, attending church regularly as a family, praying often and Trusting in God more. Because this is the land of the free, we very well could rewrite the American dream along the lines of In God We Trust.