Christians as Citizens in the USA

Buddy Payne · Matthew 22:15–22 · Series: **Christians Facing A Corrupting Culture**

INTRODUCTION

- His point is we need to shine as lights in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.
- Christian, in this audience, your citizenship is in heaven. You're a citizen of a spiritual kingdom.
- Even though you're a citizen in heaven, in the spiritual kingdom of Jesus Christ our Lord, you are still earthly citizens of a nation on the face of this earth called the United States of America.

1 Render to Caesar the Things That Are Caesar's

Matthew 22:15–22; Romans 13:1–7; Acts 4:18–20

- Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.
- Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God.
- If a governing authority by God's authority is telling you to do something in violation of God's will, you obey God, not men.

2 Government From the Consent of the Governed

Romans 13:1

- This government under which you today live claims that it received its power from the consent of the governed. Who is that? That's us, folks.
- Our government was founded on the principle that those who are governed will be active participants.
- That means what does Caesar expect of you in the government where you find yourself?

3 Our Government Expects You to Participate by Voting

- Can you be a citizen in this country as a Christian and refuse to vote? I say absolutely not, because that's what Caesar expects of you as a citizen.
- How do you give consent? You vote.
- Do your research so that you can vote in good conscience at least to support candidates who take godly stands on issues that matter to you.
- If every Christian in the United States of America decided not to vote, then what in the world influence is there going to be relative to the issues of concern to us?

4 Praying Fervently About Governments

1 Timothy 2:1–4; Psalm 33:10–12; Jeremiah 18:5–8

- Every Christian is to be praying fervently about governments.
- Supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men. For kings and for all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life.

- If that nation against whom I've spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster I thought to bring upon it.
- You pray for those in authority, and things can change. The potter will change his mind, is what that passage teaches.

5 Let Our Light Shine on Moral Issues

Ephesians 5:11–12

- Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.
- Is a Christian supposed to remain silent about things that are evil? No, he says you expose them.
- I am in no way recommending that the church at South Bumby become a political entity. That is not why God built his church.
- But I am saying Christians are to be lights in a dark world.

6 Use the Rights Afforded Us

Acts 22:24–29; Acts 25:10–11; Romans 1:16–17

- Should we use the rights afforded us to promote righteous causes? I say absolutely.
- Did Paul use his rights as a Roman citizen to stop them from doing something wrong? Yes, he did.
- We have the First Amendment, beloved. We do not have to be mistreated with impunity.
- We should be praying that our government will never change in such a way that we don't have that right anymore.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Every child of God will think seriously about my responsibilities as a citizen of the United States of America.**

MY NOTES