

Living with Dual Citizenship

New Life Lessons
July 3rd & 5th, 2015
Pastor Ron Salsbury

Day One – Read Proverbs 3:5-6; Matthew 22:37-40.

As a nation, we are so grateful for our freedom! We remember and celebrate our hard fought independence. But we are all “dependent” on certain things/people as well. As people created in the image of God for relationship, we are dependent upon God and other people. When does healthy dependence become unhealthy “codependence?”

Pray and ask God to help you develop greater dependence on him, and healthier dependence on other people.

Day Two – Read Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 3:17; Ephesians 5:25.

How do healthier marriages and families, and stronger churches, help make for a stronger and healthier nation? How could confusion about the “*three realms of responsibility*” work to minimize our effectiveness?

Pray – Ask God to help you actively commit to working for a healthier family and a stronger local church.

Day Three – Read 1 Timothy 2:1-2; 2 Chronicles 7:14.

As we enter another presidential election season, let’s commit ourselves to do it better! Let’s pray more, bash people less, become more informed (reading more party platforms and objective voter guides and watching less cable news!) Let’s get more prayerful and informed, and less angry and cynical.

Pray - Ask God to give us grace and wisdom. Pray for national civility and unity in the face of division and hatred. Ask that God will have mercy on our nation and give us a true, national, spiritual awakening! As 2 Chronicles 7:14 says, it up to us, as God’s people, to humble ourselves and pray! We must seek God’s face and turn from our wicked ways! It’s much easier to blame others than take responsibility ourselves! Let’s commit ourselves to prayer!

“A Declaration of Dependence”

Proverbs 3:5-6; Matthew 22:37-40; Psalm 33:12a;
Exodus 20:3; Mark 12:13-17

Created for Relationship

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV) ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Genesis 2:18; 12:1-3; Exodus 20:3; 1 Samuel 8:7-22

Matthew 22:37-40 (NIV) ³⁷ Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Psalm 33:12a

The U.S. Declaration of Independence

“We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

Thomas Jefferson
July 4, 1776

Our “Dual Citizenship”

Mark 12:13, 14b-17 (NIV) ¹³ They sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him in his words. ^{14b} Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not? ^{15b} Jesus asked. "Bring me a denarius and let me look at it." ¹⁶ They brought the coin, and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. ¹⁷ Then Jesus said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." And they were amazed at him.

Three Realms of Responsibility

The Government – “Restrain Evil”

Romans 13:1-5; 1 Peter 2:13-14; John 18:36

The Church – “Make Disciples, Do Good”

Matthew 28:18-20; Galatians 6:10

The Individual – “Be Salt, Light, Leaven”

Matthew 5:13-16; 13:33; Colossians 3:17

“Unfortunately, Christians have come to be characterized as narrow-minded, critical people who write, post pictures, blog, and email negative propaganda about those they oppose in elections.”

“Change comes when we as individuals see it is our responsibility, not the government’s or the Church’s, to make a difference.”

– Chip Ingram, *Culture Shock*

Living as “American Christians”

1. Commit Ourselves to God

Romans 12:1 (NIV) ¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to **offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.**
Proverbs 14:34

Colossians 3:17 (NIV) ¹⁷ And **whatever you do**, whether in word or deed, **do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

2. Work for Family Health

Romans 12:2 (NIV) ² Do not conform any longer to **the pattern of this world**, but be **transformed** by the **renewing**

of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his **good, pleasing and perfect will.**

Ephesians 5:25 (NIV) ²⁵ **Husbands, love your wives**, just as Christ loved the church and **gave himself up for her.**

Deuteronomy 6:6-7a (NIV) ⁶ These **commandments** that I give you today are to **be upon your hearts.** ^{7a} **Impress them** on your children.
Ephesians 6:4; 2 Timothy 2:1-2

3. Strengthen the Local Church

Ephesians 4:16 (NIV) ¹⁶ From Christ the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as **each part does its work.**
Acts 2:40-47; 9:36

4. Be Responsible Citizens

1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NIV) ¹ I urge, then, first of all, that **requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving** be made for everyone-- ² **for kings and all those in authority**, that we may live **peaceful and quiet lives** in all **godliness and holiness.**

- *Pray Fervently*
- *Vote Knowledgeably*
- *Serve Faithfully*
- *Speak Honorably*

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV) ¹⁴ If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.