

SERMON OUTLINE

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| SERMON TITLE: | The Demands of Christian Citizenship |
| SERMON REFERENCE: | 1 Peter 2:11-17 |
| LWF SERMON NUMBER: | #1647 |

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) A Christian is a citizen of this world and of the world above.
- b) The Bible shows us how we are to live in this earthly pilgrimage.
- c) 1 Peter 2:11-17
 - i) The word “visitation” in this passage literally means “in the day of observation.”
 - (1) This means that when others inspect us, they will have to say that there is something different about our lives.
- d) Ignorance and apathy are the two biggest problems in America today.
 - i) We need to pray that God will open our minds and work in our hearts and move us from ignorance and apathy to information and zeal and a genuine God-given patriotism.
 - (1) Patriotism is a gift from God and a Bible quality that we need to teach.
 - (2) Our Scripture today speaks of patriotism.

2) THE CHARACTER THAT CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP DEMANDS (1 PETER 2:11-12)

- a) 1 Peter 2:11
- b) We are to live a righteous, godly life.
 - i) There is to be none of what the Bible calls “fleshly lust” in our hearts and lives.
 - ii) A child of God ought to be pure.
- c) There are certain things that war against the soul.
 - i) The word for “war” in 1 Peter 2:11 speaks of a strategy, a conspiracy.
 - (1) It does not have the idea of hand-to-hand combat
 - (2) There is a conspiracy born in Hell that wars against your soul, the soul of your family, the soul of your church and the soul of this nation.
 - ii) We are at war with unseen forces from the very pit of Hell.
- d) In order to be prepared for the battle, we must be absolutely and totally clean.
 - i) We must renounce and abstain from that which is wrong.
- e) We must embrace everything that is right.
 - i) 1 Peter 2:12
 - (1) “Conversation” here means “behavior.”
 - (2) The word “Gentiles” speaks of those who are not saved.
 - (3) Others will love to talk badly about the church and to ridicule Bible believers.
 - (4) We must live such pure, godly, clean, righteous, and honest lives that those who hate us will have to admit, even grudgingly, that there is a difference in our lives.
- f) Our nation exists because of the character of her people.
 - i) America is great because America is good.
 - ii) If America ceases to be good, then America will cease to be great.
 - iii) America is a great nation because of her character.
- g) Character and liberty are linked together.

- i) When a nation loses its character (which is its ability to act responsibly), then it will lose its liberty.
- ii) The liberty that we have as a nation is in direct proportion to our character.
- iii) A nation, like an individual, cannot be irresponsible and remain free.
- h) America was born in a revival.
 - i) From 1740 to 1770, there was a Great Awakening in what is now the United States.
 - ii) Jonathan Edwards and George Whitfield preached across the land, and there was a birth of righteousness and spirituality in our country.
 - (1) Schools and towns were built.
 - (2) Character was instilled.
 - (3) Our American Revolution began.
 - iii) The Constitution and the Declaration of Independence came out of this spiritual revival.
- i) Our government was framed by a people with character, and it can only be maintained with a people of character.
 - i) The Mayflower pilgrims came to this land in 1620 seeking religious liberty.
 - (1) They wrote the *Mayflower Compact*, which was a covenant that they agreed upon.
 - (a) It began with the words, “In the name of God, Amen...”
 - (b) They stated that their purpose for coming to this land was for the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith.
 - ii) After the spiritual awakening, Americans decided that they would no longer live under the tyranny of Great Britain; so, they wrote the Declaration of Independence.
 - (1) The Declaration states that “all men are endowed by their Creator...”
 - (a) Today, creationism cannot be taught in public schools.
 - (b) The men who wrote the Declaration of Independence believed in creation.
 - (2) The authors of the Declaration further wrote that “all men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights.”
 - (a) This means that the government doesn’t give these rights; God gives us these rights.
 - (3) While this was a declaration of independence from England, it was also a declaration of dependence upon God.
 - iii) Out of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution was framed.
 - (1) Of the 55 men who wrote the Constitution, 50 of them were evangelical Christians.
 - (a) Thirty-three of them were what we would call bold, soul-winning Christians.
 - iv) James Madison, the chief architect of the Constitution and fourth president of the United States, stated that they staked the whole future of the American civilization not upon the power of government, but upon

the capacity of each citizen to govern and to sustain themselves according to the Ten Commandments.

- (1) Today, we cannot post the Ten Commandments in America's classrooms.
 - v) In 1820, Daniel Webster said that our Founding Fathers sought to incorporate and infuse Christianity's influence through all institutions, including civil, political and literary.
 - (1) Today, prayer is not even allowed in our public schools.
 - vi) President Andrew Jackson stated that the Bible is the rock upon which our Republic rests.
 - vii) Our Constitution is infused with Bible principles from beginning to end.
 - viii) President George Washington said that we cannot succeed without the smile of God and that the smile of God comes if we do not disregard the eternal rule of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained.
 - (1) Our Founding Fathers believed that we find our values and a fixed standard of right and wrong in the Bible.
 - ix) Abraham Lincoln said that apart from the Bible, we wouldn't know right from wrong.
 - x) In 1952, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas said that we are a religious people, and our institutions presuppose a Supreme Being.
 - xi) In 1956, Congress adopted a bill providing that the national motto should be, "In God We Trust."
 - j) Prayer is not allowed these days in public schools because it might offend someone.
 - i) The First Amendment was not written in order to protect us from getting our feelings hurt.
 - k) In our nation today, God's name can be blasphemed, but His name cannot be praised.
 - l) It is said that America does not have a king, but we do.
 - i) We did not vote Him in, and we can't vote Him out.
 - ii) God is our King.
 - m) There are those who would rob us and defraud us of our Christian heritage.
 - i) But this land was built by people with character, and it will only be maintained by people with character.
 - n) As character diminishes, government grows.
 - i) Government was meant to only do certain things.
 - (1) The authors of our Constitution wrote that the government was to promote the general welfare and to provide for the common defense.
 - (2) Government was not meant to provide the general welfare but to promote it.
 - (a) Government is a watchdog to be fed, not a cow to be milked.
- 3) THE COMPLIANCE THAT CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP DEMANDS (1 PETER 2:13-14)
- a) 1 Peter 2:13-14

- b) A person who is a God-fearing American will also be a law-abiding American.
 - i) He will submit himself to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake; to the laws he likes and to the laws he does not like.
 - ii) He will learn how to honor and pray for his government, whatever his government may be.
- c) The Bible teaches that if there is in a person a spirit of rebellion, then there is also the spirit of Satan in that person.
 - i) 1 Samuel 15:23
- d) When the spirit of Jesus is in you, then you will have a spirit of submission in you.
- e) What are we to do when wicked rulers are leading our nation?
 - i) When Peter wrote this passage of Scripture, Nero was most likely the ruler.
 - (1) Nero was a very wicked ruler, and yet, Peter says that we are to submit to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake.
 - (a) This means that in every law that does not contradict the law of God, we are to be submissive.
 - ii) If the laws of man contradict the law of God, then we ought to obey God rather than men.
 - (1) Acts 5:29
 - (2) The midwives hid the little male babies in the days of Pharaoh.
 - (a) Exodus 1:15-17
 - (3) Jochebed hid little Moses in the bulrushes.
 - (a) She was breaking the law, but not the law of God.
 - (4) Daniel prayed when the king forbade prayer.
 - (a) Daniel 6:1-10
 - (b) Daniel was an exemplary Christian, and nothing could be said against him, except when he was commanded to contradict the law of God.
 - f) A Christian is to have character and compliance.
 - i) We should not be thought of as renegades and law breakers.
 - ii) We should be the best and most productive citizens in the land.
- 4) THE CONDUCT THAT CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP DEMANDS (1 PETER 2:17)
 - a) 1 Peter 2:17
 - i) In this one verse, by divine inspiration, we have the conduct of the Christian citizen.
 - b) We are to honor all people:
 - i) In our social life.
 - (1) "Honor all men."
 - (2) 1 Peter 2:17
 - (a) The Greek word for "honor" means "to give worth to."
 - (i) It has the idea of something being precious.

- (3) Every person is precious in the sight of God, and the Christian citizen will see each person that way.
- (4) A person does not understand the demands of Christian citizenship if there are others in this world whom he does not see as precious.
- ii) In our church life.
 - (1) 1 Peter 2:17
 - (a) “Love the brotherhood.”
 - (i) This speaks of the church.
 - (2) We are to honor all men, but not all men are our brothers.
 - (a) God is the Father of those who have been born into His family through the new birth.
 - (i) Brothers and sisters in Christ are brothers and sisters because they are in Christ.
 - (b) Just because God is the Creator of us all does not make us all the children of God.
 - (i) We are all creatures of God.
 - (ii) God also created the animals.
 - 1. He is their Creator, not their Father.
 - (c) God becomes the Father of those who are born again.
 - (i) When God becomes our Father, we then become brothers and sisters.
 - (3) The word used for “love” in 1 Peter 2:17 is the word “agape” love.
 - (4) If you want to be a good citizen and a good Christian, then love the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (5) The answer to America’s problems is not in the White House, the Pentagon, the state house, or even in the schoolhouse, but in the church house.
 - (a) 2 Chronicles 7:14
- iii) In our spiritual life.
 - (1) 1 Peter 2:17
 - (a) “Fear God.”
 - (2) There is no fear of God in America today.
 - (a) TV sitcoms and comedians take great delight in ridiculing holy things.
 - (i) What a nation laughs at and weeps over shows us the spiritual condition of that nation.
 - (b) People today laugh and mock at holy things.
 - (3) Psalm 111:10
- iv) In our political life.
 - (1) 1 Peter 2:17
 - (a) “Honor the king.”
 - (2) Whether it be a president or a governor, if we would criticize less and pray more, God may change them.
 - (a) Proverbs 21:1

(3) We can honor our political leaders without revering them or even liking them.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) Each of us can say the following:
 - i) I am only one, but I am one.
 - ii) I can't do everything, but I can do something.
 - iii) What I can do and ought to do, by the grace of God I will do.
- b) Let's have revival in America.
 - i) If we can't have revival in America, then have revival in your city.
 - ii) If you can't have revival in your city, then have revival in your local church.
 - iii) If you can't have a revival in your local church, then have revival in your own family.
 - iv) If you can't have revival in your family, then have revival in you.
- c) Before you can become a Christian citizen, you must first receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.
 - i) Are you saved?
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16