

God's Perfect Patriot

What does it mean to be a Christian and a citizen in a divided nation?

1. Start by understanding God's Heart

You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 5:43-48

- **A child of God learns how to be a blessing to all kinds of people.**
- **Do my actions (even on social media) represent God's heart?**

2. Understand the Real Problem

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 6:12

- **We are all involved in a Spiritual Struggle, and it is NOT along political lines.**
- **How can I view each person as full of value and possibility and hope?**

3. Understand God's True Goal

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those

in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

- **Politics and power are of secondary importance, Salvation is God's Priority.**
- **Do my actions attract people to or repel them away from the good news of Jesus?**

4. Understand Your True Hope

The LORD sits enthroned above the circle of the earth... He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. No sooner are they planted... no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff...But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:22, 23-24, 31

- **Human authorities rise and fall, and should never define us.**
- **Do I find myself overly excited or depressed by political circumstances?**

5. Claim Your True Citizenship

As I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:18-20

- **Our citizenship determines our values, our hopes, our goals and our loyalties.**
- **What am I willing to sacrifice and what would I sacrifice for?**