



# Christian Citizenship

**"You are the salt of the earth . . . You are the light of the world" (Mt. 5:13-16). One way to be salty and let our light shine is by being good citizens on earth. Our vocation as citizens of both the secular kingdom and God's kingdom gives us the responsibility to proclaim God's Word and care for our neighbors. We are called to engage the "public square" with our message of Christ's mercy for all. Please pray for God's will to be done... in Jesus' name.**

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## When Faith Fades, Meaning Erodes

"Across history," writes Kay Rubacek, "political movements have risen more from longing than from logic. Each generation faces a moment when faith fades, meaning erodes, and something new rushes in to fill the void. Today, that longing has found a modern language, one spoken in the vocabulary of compassion, justice, and equality. It's the language of socialism, reborn not as an economic theory but as a moral revival." An older generation may recall "breadlines and tyranny," but a younger generation imagines "belonging and moral purpose."

Rubacek sees that the "battle lines have moved from economics to ethics." As the primary vessel for this "moral reawakening," the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) "runs candidates under the democratic banner while seeking to transform the moral imagination of American life. Its goal is not merely to win elections but to convert hearts and make socialism feel less like rebellion and more like righteousness." For many in a younger generation, "movements such as DSA now fill the role that faith and family once played, providing a community with moral certainty and a sense of mission." Rubacek explains that "the DSA's core declaration—'We believe that working people should run both the economy and society democratically to meet human needs, not to make profits for a few'—reads more like a creed than a political platform. Even its Religious Socialism project admits that millions of Americans who call themselves 'spiritual but not religious' are seeking new frameworks for meaning. They preach that socialism can fill that void—not as Marx's 'opium of the people' meant to soothe pain, but as moral dynamite meant to blow away the old order." Perhaps, says Rubacek, this is "why socialism endures after every failure. You can disprove a policy but not a promise of salvation. A restless generation is told "they can be righteous

again . . . if they share enough, protest enough, care enough, the world will finally be fair." (Excerpted from "The New Moral Revival: Why Socialism Feels Like Faith to a Generation Searching for Meaning" by Kay Rubacek, *The Epoch Times*, Nov 10-24, 2025. Rubacek is a filmmaker and author who dedicates her work to promoting human value and facing communist regimes. Her forthcoming book is *Staying Human in the Age of AI*.)

**What can we do?** Rubacek, who was detained in a Chinese prison for advocating for human rights, encourages us to persevere and take heart. Take note that "religious devotion is growing again among young Americans, particularly young men [who] say they are drawn not to institutions but to discipline, virtue, and community—the very things missing from modern life." Understand that "the same hunger that drives some toward socialism is leading others back to faith. Both recognize the world's moral collapse. One begins with the transformation of the self, the other with the transformation of society. One teaches repentance and forgiveness; the other teaches resentment and control. One redeems the soul, while the other reengineers the world." Let us not "scold the young for being naïve. . . . They are not drawn to socialism because they hate freedom, but because they fear emptiness. They want virtue without hypocrisy, compassion without corruption, meaning without manipulation. If older generations hope to reach them, they must answer that moral longing not with warnings, but with witness." We are called to help a younger generation longing for belonging and moral purpose to find it, not in the state or system, but as a member of the Body of Christ. We are called to help young men and women engage in the struggle "between stories—over who defines truth and what gives life meaning."

**Please pray** pray to be a witness of Truth to a younger generation... in Jesus' name.

## It's Not the Machine, It's the Citizen

There is something more troubling than the technology of artificial intelligence (AI). "The real crisis facing America and the West is not technological," writes Kay Rubacek, "it is moral. Democracies do not weaken because their tools become outdated; they weaken when the people who sustain them lose confidence,

clarity, and inner direction. . . . A free government cannot survive a morally disoriented public. No algorithm, no matter how sophisticated, can supply virtue where none exists. . . . Surprisingly, the idea of 'algocracy' (government by algorithm) continues to seduce a society increasingly overwhelmed by disorder. Algorithms promise what human institutions struggle to offer: speed, consistency, neutrality, freedom from corruption, and relief from the churn of political conflict. . . . In an era of distrust and institutional decay, those promises feel like rescue. But they are built on a misunderstanding of both human nature and machine logic. An algorithm can optimize efficiency, but efficiency is not wisdom. Optimization is not judgment. And judgment—moral, historical, human judgment—is the core function of democratic life. . . . But once people get accustomed to the idea that 'the algorithm knows best,' they slowly lose the habits that make self-governance possible. The muscle of civic responsibility weakens, the instinct to weigh competing truths dulls, and the capacity for moral discernment erodes. A society that surrenders judgment cannot sustain democracy, no matter how refined its tools become."

The Founding Fathers, says Rubacek, "understood this dynamic better than any of today's technocrats. John Adams's observation that the Constitution was made for a moral and religious people was never a theological demand; it was a sociological fact. A free republic requires citizens who can restrain themselves, tolerate disagreement, act with integrity, and recognize right from wrong. Without that, laws become hollow and institutions brittle. George Washington warned in his farewell address that liberty cannot last without shared moral principles. He feared the loss of a common ethic long before he feared foreign empires. Their foresight came from a sober understanding of human nature, not an idealistic faith in it. They knew that a population lacking virtue would either spiral into chaos or beg for a ruler to save them from themselves. Today's twist of fate is that the 'ruler' many are turning toward isn't even human."

AI, writes Rubacek, "does not fix a society; it reflects it. And whatever it reflects, it magnifies. If a culture is confused about justice, its AI systems will deepen that confusion. If people are divided about truth, their models will intensify the division. If citizens avoid their responsibilities, AI will gladly step in."

The real threat of drifting toward algocracy, explains Rubacek, "is not that AI systems will dominate us but that we may no longer produce citizens capable of resisting domination." (Excerpted from "America's Real

Crisis: The Collapse of the Citizen" by Kay Rubacek in *The Epoch Times*, 11/23/2025.)

**What can we do?** Rubacek says we must remember what AI cannot do: Determine the value of a human life, define justice, cultivate moral citizens, replace the wisdom encoded in history, or supply inner discipline that enables a free people to remain free. Rubacek encourages the formation of citizens who rebuild moral clarity through shared human values such as courage, honesty, duty, and dignity. "At the center of all this," writes Rubacek, "stands the human person. Any political system—algorithmic or not—that weakens the dignity of the individual can never sustain freedom." The Christian is called to remember Whose we are and why that matters for generations to come. We are male and female created in the image of God and, although fallen from perfection, we are redeemed and set apart to live our vocations of fathers, mothers, workers, and citizens because of Jesus Christ.

**Please pray** *God's will be done... in Jesus' name.*

## Living in A Strange Land

Although most of us have never been uprooted from American soil, we may feel as if we've been exiled to a strange and corrupted place. We may recognize the evil of lies and deceit, but what are we to do? How are we to live? When God sent men, women, and children into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon, the people mourned. What are we to do? How shall we live? To those in exile, God said:

"Build houses and live in them, plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters, multiply there and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. . . . Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in My name; I did not send them, declares the LORD."

**What can we do?** Have faith and be obedient where God has placed us. Be of hope! The promise is true: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).

**Please pray** *for discerning wisdom and daily strength in the Holy Spirit... and in Jesus' name.*

