



# 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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## **They Sacrificed, Now... What about Us?**

The 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor. These were not impetuous, rabble-rousing ruffians, but sensible men of means and education: lawyers, merchants, and farmers. Liberty was more important to them than personal security. Stories of these men abound. Five signers of The Declaration of Independence were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons in the revolutionary army, another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 signers fought and died from wounds or hardships of the war. Carter Braxton, a Virginia planter and trader, lost his ships to the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts. Thomas McKeam constantly moved his family to avoid the threats of the British. His possessions were taken from him. The properties of Ellery, Clymer, Hall, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton were looted and vandalized. The home of Thomas Nelson, Jr., became the headquarters of General Cornwallis. During the battle of Yorktown, Nelson urged General Washington to open fire on his family home. He died bankrupt. Francis Lewis lost his home and properties; the enemy jailed his wife who died within a few months. John Hart was driven from his dying wife’s bedside to live in forests and caves. He returned home to find his wife dead and children vanished. This husband and father died soon after. Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

What do we know of such sacrifice? In what ways have “We the People” invested of ourselves in order to maintain the Constitutional Republic established at such high price? What have we taught our children? Do we understand the “separation of church and state” as intended by the founders? If Christians withdraw, who is left to influence government and society? Do we

care to defend “life, liberty, and the pursuit (of those things that bring) happiness?”

In his book, *Silence Equals Consent: The Sin of Omission (Speak Now or Forever Lose Your Freedom)*, William J. Federer asks, “How have godly people been persuaded to let ungodliness reign?” He contrasts the worldview of globalists with that of those who believe in national sovereignty. For example, George Soros has said, “The main obstacle to a stable and just world is the United States.” Klaus Schwab of the World Economic Forum (WEF) has said, “Acute crises contribute to boosting the power of the state.” Agenda 2030, the official video of the WEF, tells us, “You will own nothing and be happy.” Are we aware, Federer asks, that “just as our silence gives consent to wedding vows, it gives consent to other things? It is called ‘the rule of tacit admission.’” He asks: “If we know of evils in our community and are silent, are we an accessory to them?” He asks, “Is it scriptural to not care about what kind of country we are leaving to our posterity?”

**What can we do?** Remember that Christianity has always brought light and hope to humanity wherever it spread in the world. It changed the way children (born and unborn) were viewed and the way that widows, the elderly, and the sick were treated. It built hospitals and motivated adoption and hospice care. Read *How Christianity Changed the World* by Alvin J. Schmidt to learn how Christianity has “knit the moral fabric and inspired the highest achievements of Western civilization with untold benefits to the entire world.” Understand that the religion of global government has no respect for the sanctity of human life, does not tolerate Christianity, and enslaves men, women, and children through tyranny. “Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that [we] may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (Ephesians 6:10-11).

**Please pray** to repent of silence, speak truth, and resist evil... in Jesus’ name.

## **Christianity: Best Type of Citizenship**

President Grover Cleveland said, “All must admit that the reception of the teachings of Christ results in the

purest patriotism, in the most scrupulous fidelity to public trust, and in the best type of citizenship."

In *Church of the Holy Trinity v. United States* (1892), the United States Supreme Court stated, "Our laws and our institutions must necessarily be based upon and embody the teachings of the Redeemer of mankind. It is impossible that it should be otherwise; and in this sense and to this extent our civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian."

What did some of America's founding fathers have to say about Christianity? John Adams wrote in his diary, July 26, 1797, "The Christian religion is, above all the Religions that ever prevailed or existed in ancient or modern times, the religion of Wisdom, Virtue, Equity, and Humanity. . . ."

Samuel Adams declared, "I conceive we cannot better express ourselves than by humbly supplicating the Supreme Ruler of the world. . . . that the confusions that are and have been among the nations may be overruled by the promoting and speedily bringing in the holy and happy period when the kingdoms of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ may be everywhere established, and the people willingly bow to the sceptre of Him who is the Prince of Peace."

On July 8, 1776, a three man committee consisting of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin was established for the purpose of designing a great seal for the United States. Franklin proposed: "Moses lifting up his wand, and dividing the red sea, and pharaoh in his chariot overwhelmed with the waters. This motto [is]: 'Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God.'" Jefferson proposed: "The children of Israel in the wilderness, led by a cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night."

On July 12, 1804, Alexander Hamilton was shot by Aaron Burr in a duel. His dying words were: "I have a tender reliance on the mercy of the Almighty, through the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am a sinner. I look to Him for mercy; pray for me."

**What can we do?** Pray for our country as George Washington did: "Almighty Father, if it is Thy holy will that we shall obtain a place and name among the nations of the earth, grant that we may be enabled to show our gratitude for Thy goodness by our endeavors to fear and obey Thee. Bless us with Thy wisdom in our counsels, success in battle, and let all our victories be tempered with humanity. Endow, also, our enemies with enlightened minds, that they become sensible of

their injustice, and willing to restore our liberty and peace. Grant the petition of Thy servant, for the sake of Him whom Thou hast called Thy beloved Son; nevertheless; not my will, but Thine be done." (All quotes in this section can be found in *America's God and Country: Encyclopedia of Quotations* by William J. Federer.)

**Please pray** that God keep the United States of America in His holy protection and incline hearts toward their Lord and Savior ... in Jesus' name.

## Struggle Is Not Against Flesh and Blood

We would expect to hear a Christian and biblically faithful pastor quote St. Paul, who said, "[O]ur struggle is not against flesh and blood." But, speaking at a Heritage Foundation Convention, Tucker Carlson boldly stated, "There is a spiritual battle under way. And there is no logical way to understand what we're seeing now in temporal terms. . . . These are not political divides. There are forces—and they're very obvious now; they've decided, for whatever reason, to take off the mask—whose only goal is chaos, violence, destruction." These "forces" are "dedicated to the destruction of people. . . . but what group do they dislike most? What group are they absolutely terrified of and hoping to eliminate? Well, it's Christians. . . . The group that makes them angriest—triggers them most, I guess we would say now—is Christians. . . . people who pray outside abortion clinics [and] people who celebrate Easter, not Trans Visibility Day." Carlson continued, "It's the religion of Jesus that makes them angry, and that suggests that maybe there is something a little deeper going on here." (Source: Chris Enloe in *Blaze Media*, July 17, 2024.)

**What can we do?** Continue to be the kind of people that the prince of this world and his followers despise most. "Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." "Love your neighbor as yourself." Be peaceable. Pray for your persecutor. Understand that "you do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm" (Ephesians 6:12ff).

**Please pray** for discernment of the Holy Spirit and that God's will be done... in Jesus' name.

