

Theme: God calls and empowers us through the Gospel to be good citizens and neighbors, displaying faith through good works.

I. Intro - July 4th

- A. Time when we celebrate our country
- B. Can Christians really do this?
- C. What is our place in nation? Community?

II. Called To Be Good Citizens

- A. Called to submit to the government
 - 1. Subject to rulers & authorities (v1)
 - 2. Common teaching (v1; Rom 13:1; 1 Pet 2:13-14)
- B. What we owe the government
 - 1. Honor & respect (1Pe 2:17)
 - 2. Recognition – God’s servant (Rom 13:4)
 - 3. Submission & obedience (v1; Rom 13:1-2)
 - 4. Taxes (Rom 13:6-7)
 - 5. Good works of citizenship (v1b)
- C. The limits of obedience (Acts 5:29)
 - 1. As always, obedience to God is primary
 - 2. Be careful – not a license for rebellion!

III. Called To Be Good Neighbors

- A. Called to be good neighbors (v1b-2)
 - 1. Do good works for others (v1b)
 - 2. Peaceful relations w/ others (v2)
- B. Our responsibility for peaceful relations
 - 1. If possible, depends on us (Rom 12:18-19)
 - 2. Called to peace – not belligerence

IV. The Basis & Power – The Gospel

- A. Remember what you were (v3)
 - 1. A terrible picture! (v3)
 - 2. It may describe our leaders, neighbors!
- B. Remember how God treated you (v4)
 - 1. God was kind and loving (v4)
 - 2. He showed this while we were sinners (Rom 5:8)
- C. Remember the basis for salvation: God’s merciful work
 - 1. Not our works – his mercy (v5)
 - 2. Not our works – his work (v5)
- D. The outcome of the faith – good works!

1. Those who trust God, devote to good works (v8)
2. Even if people are ungrateful/wicked – like we were!

V. Conclusion & Summary

A. Are we good citizens?

1. Do we submit to our government – willingly, joyfully?
2. Do we fulfill citizenship responsibilities – taxes, vote
3. Do we thank God for this country?

B. Are we good neighbors?

1. Do we serve others in family, work, neighborhood?
2. Do we respond in a godly way – or as they do?

C. Are we remembering the Gospel?

1. Do we remember our sin?
2. Do we remember God's kindness, love, mercy?
3. Does this motivate me to live differently?

D. Remember Me: Communion

Good Citizens and Neighbors Through The Gospel

Titus 3:1-8
July 2, 2006
Communion
Hebrews 13:20-21 paraphrase

1 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Romans 13:1

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, 14 or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

1 Peter 2:13-14

17 Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

1 Peter 2:17

4 For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

Romans 13:4

1 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

Romans 13:1-2

6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. 7 Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

Romans 13:6-7

29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"

Acts 5:29

18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

Romans 12:18-19

8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8