

Theme: Christians are called to serve God in their nation and culture, submitting to their leaders, and serving in the government and wider culture with unbelievers to promote the common good, always remembering that their true home is the new heavens and the new earth.

## I. Intro – Responses to the Election

- A. Saw a lot of positions about politics on Facebook
- B. Some said Christian should not even be involved
- C. Some so invested they despaired when they lost
- D. How do Christians related to civil government?

## II. Called To Submit To Our Rulers

- A. Christians are called to submit to rulers
  - 1. Everyone must submit to authorities (Rom 13:1,5)
  - 2. Consistent NT teaching (Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13)
- B. This includes all levels of authority
  - 1. Governing authorities - includes all authorities (v1)
  - 2. No authority except God ordained (v1)
  - 3. All levels specifically mentioned (1 Pet 2:13-14)
  - 4. For us, constitution, laws, AND people ruling
- C. What submission entails
  - 1. Not being rebellious (Rom 13:2)
  - 2. Doing right - obey the law whenever possible (Rom 13:3)
  - 3. Paying taxes (Rom 13:6-7)
  - 4. Showing honor/respect (Rom 13:6-7; 1 Pet 2:13-17)

- 5. Praying for them - with thanks (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

- D. Submission is the basic response to the role of leaders
  - 1. Obey unless require clear disobedience to Scripture
  - 2. Still obey other areas (one unjust law does not free us from others)
  - 3. Must always honor & show respect

## III. Called To Civil Governing

- A. God calls people to govern the civil realm
  - 1. God institutes/ordains civil authority (Rom 13:1-2)
  - 2. Rulers are God's servants & agents (Rom 13:4,6)
- B. Can Christians serve in civil government?
  - 1. Some traditions say no - part of fallen world
  - 2. This is a false idea - everything is fallen
  - 3. Look at Joseph & Daniel - served pagan governments
  - 4. Jesus, John the Baptist let soldiers stay in Army
  - 5. We are called to be in the world but not of it
  - 6. Some of us are called to civil government - do it!

## IV. Called To Promote the Common Good

- A. Jeremiah's command to the exiles - and us (Jer 29:4-7)
  - 1. Settle in and live life in your place of exile (vv4-6)
  - 2. Seek the prosperity - of Babylon! Pray for it! (v7)
- B. Christians are called to promote the common good

1. Definition of calling
2. To do this we work with believers and unbelievers
3. We work in the real world - not a utopia
4. Messy but critical - prosperity depends on it (Jer 29:7)
5. Think of Daniel - working for Nebuchadnezzar, Darius

## **V. Called To Remember Our True Home**

- A. We must always remember our true citizenship, home
  1. Our true citizenship in heaven (Philipp 3:20)
  2. We eagerly await Christ's return (Philipp. 3:20)
  3. This is when things will be right (Philipp. 3:21)
- B. This changes everything for Christians as citizens now
  1. I know there is no utopia now - goals are limited
  2. I know there is no utopia now - allegiances are limited
  3. I know ultimate hope is future - disappointments limited

## **VI. Applying the Word**

- A. Am I fulfilling my call as a citizen?
  1. Am I submissive or rebellious when my side loses?
  2. Am I praying for my leaders with thanksgiving?
  3. Have I been called to government - then serve!
  4. Am I promoting the common good?
- B. Am I living as a citizen of the new earth - or just America?

1. Do I really realize how limited good is in this age?
2. When I lose do I despair? Speak outrageous words?
3. Never lose sight of our true citizenship & home!
4. Rich Mullins - Land of My Sojourn chorus

### **Called To Citizenship**

Romans 13:1-7; Jeremiah 29:4-7; Philippians 3:20-21  
November 25, 2012  
Prayer  
Psalm 134:3

Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, Titus 3:1

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men...  
1 Peter 2:13

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

1 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone — 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 1 Timothy 2:1–2

1 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone — 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 1 Timothy 2:1–2

Nobody tells you when you get born here  
How much you'll come to love it  
And how you'll never belong here  
So I call you my country  
And I'll be lonely for my home  
And I wish that I could take you there with me

And the countryside was pocked  
With all of those mail pouch posters  
Thrown up on the rotting sideboards of  
These rundown stables like the one that Christ was born in  
When the old world started dying  
And the new world started coming on  
And I'll sing His song, and I'll sing His song  
In the land of my sojourn

In the land of my sojourn  
And I will sing His song  
In the land of my sojourn  
Rich Mullins - excerpt of Land of My Sojourn