

Christians Facing a Corrupting Culture as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

Christians Facing a Corrupting Culture

■ **Philippians 2:14-16**

- **We must shine as lights!**
- **In the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.**
- **Harmless (Unmixed)**
- **Without blemish (Undamaged)**
- **And hold fast!!**

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

- Under the Law of Moses
 - Religious and civic duties – inseparable
 - Jewish proselytes must submit to religious and political laws
- Under Ancient Pagan Cultures
 - Nationality determined what gods were worshipped & how rituals were conducted

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

- Under the Law of Christ
 - Earthly citizenship remains unchanged, but we are also given heavenly citizenship.
 - Philippians 3:20
 - Acts 22:25-28 – Paul remained a Roman citizen after he became a Christian

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

- Under the Law of Christ
 - Christians are instructed to live under earthly governments in a way that reflects the spiritual principles of Christ.
 - Matthew 5:14-16

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

- Under the Law of Christ
 - Principles by which we must live
 - **Matthew 22:21** – “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s”
 - **Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-14** – Submission to laws and authority
 - **Acts 4:18-20; 5:28-32** – Must obey God rather than men

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

- What does “Render to Caesar” mean in the USA?
 - “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness ...”
 - “...that to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, **deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed ...”**
(Declaration of Independence – July 4, 1776)

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

- What does “Render to Caesar” mean in the USA?
 - Our government was founded on the principle that those who are governed would be **active participants**
 - **Giving their consent** through elected representatives
 - **Exercising their freedoms** as described in the Bill of Rights.

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

- What does “Render to Caesar” mean in the USA?
 - This governing authority, as all others, is appointed by God – **Romans 13:1**
 - This governing authority expects its citizens **to participate by electing representatives** at the local, state and federal level.

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

- What does “Render to Caesar” mean in the USA?
 - Elected representatives fill positions in the **executive, legislative** and, in some cases, **judicial branches** of the government.
 - Other **judicial positions** are filled by appointment by **executive and/or legislative** representatives.

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

- What does “Render to Caesar” mean in the USA?
 - These representatives **make, enforce and interpret** the laws at all levels of government.

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

- What does “Render to Caesar” mean in the USA?
 - The result of this governmental system “of the people, by the people, and for the people” is a system that has provided unparalleled freedoms for its citizens to live “quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and reverence.” **1 Timothy 2:1-2**

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

- **Pray fervently**
 - **1 Timothy 2:1-4**
 - **Proverbs 14:34** – “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.”
 - **Psalms 33:10-22**

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

- **Let our light shine on moral issues**
 - **Matthew 14:3-12**
 - **Ephesians 5:10-12**
 - **Our Lord does not call us to be political or social activists, but we are to be lights in the darkness!**

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

- **Let our light shine on moral issues**
 - **Matthew 14:3-12**
 - **Ephesians 5:10-12**
 - **Abortion**

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

- The infamous *Roe v Wade* Supreme Court decision of 1973
- The unborn child is not a person
- Norma McCorvey (the original “Jane Roe”) filed suit in 2003 to have *Roe v. Wade* overturned

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

Deaths from America's Wars

Total

From 1775 to the Present
(U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs)

1,190,200

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

Deaths from Abortion

From 1973 to the Present

in the USA

(Guttmacher Institute)

Over 54,000,000

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

- **Let our light shine on moral issues**
 - **Matthew 14:3-12**
 - **Ephesians 5:10-12**
 - **Abortion**
 - **Sacred Selections**
 - **In a godly way show a better way**
 - **Provide for adoption**

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

- **Recent actions relative to abortion**
 - **January 2012** – Ruling from the US Department of Health and Human Services
 - Requires employers (profit and non-profit) to provide health care plans that include coverage of abortifacients (**drugs or agents that cause abortions**).

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

- **Let our light shine on moral issues**
 - **Matthew 14:3-12**
 - **Ephesians 5:10-12**
 - **Abortion**
 - **General morality**
 - **Sanctity of marriage**
 - **Pornography**

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

- **Participate by Voting**
 - **Our God-ordained system expects citizens to elect those who govern**
 - **Go to the voting booth as a Christian! Do your research.**
 - **Support candidates who take godly stands on moral issues.**

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

- **Participate in Government**
 - **Sergius Paulus – Acts 13:7-12**
 - **The jailor – Acts 16:25-40**
 - **Erastus – Romans 16:23**
 - **Joseph and Daniel**

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech; or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Bill of Rights, First Amendment

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

- **Use rights afforded us to promote righteous causes**
 - **Acts 22:24-29**
 - **Acts 25:10-12**
 - **The apostle Paul certainly did!**

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

- **Use rights afforded us to preach the gospel!**
 - **1 Timothy 2:1-4**
 - **Romans 1:16-17**

Christians as Citizens of the USA

Matthew 22:15-22

**Remember the words
of the Potter!**

Jeremiah 18:6-10