

UNDER GOD?

The Week of October 25, 2020

The Christian Citizen

Discussion Questions

[Click here for a summary of
this week's message.](#)

Intro Questions

- Pastor David talked about people who threatened to leave the country if their candidate did not win. To what country would you send them?
- Do you have anxiety or fears about this election?

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The Christian's Dual Citizenship

- Read Philippians 3:20
...but our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- How does our heavenly citizenship supersede our earthly citizenship?
- How does this fact help alleviate our fears and anxieties?
- So as a Christ Follower, my hope isn't in the Republican or Democratic Party or even the Constitution; my hope is in Jesus Christ and in Him alone. What does hope look like?

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**How should we live in
an often hostile society?**

- Read 1 Peter 2:11-12

Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and temporary residents to abstain from fleshly desires that war against you. Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that in a case where they speak against you as those who do what is evil, they will, by observing your good works, glorify God on the day of visitation.

- What does Peter mean by “strangers and temporary residents?”
- From these verses what is the “code of conduct for the citizens of Heaven.”
- What did Pastor David mean by “embrace the weirdness?”

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- How should we live if we “claim the cross?”
- What does the Bible call us to do if our conduct does not match our heavenly citizenship?
- “Peter says, If culture is pressing against you because of your religious convictions, behave in a way that is honorable. Be strong in that moment and conduct yourself as a citizen of heaven. You don’t retaliate, you don’t withdraw. Instead, you show that person what a citizen of heaven looks like so that everyone who watches the interaction, is drawn toward the gospel, not repelled from it.” How can we be “thermostats” (change our environment) instead of “thermometers” (react to our environment) in light of this statement?

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**How should we live in
an often hostile government?**

- Read 1 Peter 2:13-14

Submit to every human authority because of the Lord, whether to the Emperor as the supreme authority or to governors as those sent out by him to punish those who do what is evil and to praise those who do what is good.

- What kind of government opposition were Peter's reader's facing when he wrote them this letter? What is our experience?
- Peter lays down a series of actions steps in this passage how Christians should respond to governmental authority. What is the first one and who does it involve?

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- What are some of the reasons Pastor David gave for our resistance to authority? Can you think of anymore?
- Read Romans 13:1
Let everyone submit to the governing authorities, since there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are instituted by God.
- What should be our attitude and response to governmental authority even when they make decisions we don't approve of?
- How does the fact the God is our Father and in complete control give us confidence in the face of ungodly government actions?
- Is there a place for righteous indignation in speaking to authorities? Why or why not?

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- Read Daniel 3:16-18

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied to the king, “Nebuchadnezzar, we don’t need to give you an answer to this question. 17 If the God we serve exists, then He can rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire, and He can rescue us from the power of you, the king. 18 But even if He does not rescue us, we want you as king to know that we will not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up.”

- If you were in “Rack, Shack & Benny’s” shoes as a teenager, how do think you would respond to their dilemma?
- What does Pastor David mean by “bearing the cost” for deciding to disagree with authority?

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Citizen of Heaven's Best Practices

- Read 1st Peter 2:15-16

For it is God's will that you silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing good. As God's slaves, live as free people, but don't use your freedom as a way to conceal evil.

- How does living beyond reproach "silence the ignorance of foolish people?"
- In contrast to the belief that the church is against people, how can Christians exhibit the love, power and message of the Gospel to those around them?

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- Read 1st Peter 2:17
Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the Emperor.
- What are the four quick commands? Why is the response different in regards to each one?

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Antidote for Fear and Anxiety Over This Election

- Read Philippians 4:6-7
Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- What should be our response and attitude when we wake up on November 4?

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- Read Philippians 2:14-16
Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.
- What are steps you can take the next couple of weeks to live as a citizen of heaven?
- Read these closing remarks from Pastor David and end in prayer.
That’s the confidence that we have if we’re following Christ. And for some of you today, this election is the source of a lot of fear and anxiety. You’re worried and concerned because your hope is sewn up in what’s happening here

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in this kingdom. And I would say to you that if that is where you are there's a better way to live. There is a hope and a future that can be yours and it is secured by God himself. And God invites you to join him in His kingdom and not as a nobody, but as His child. He offers to adopt you in to his family. It's the whole reason he sent Jesus into this world. He came to make a way for you. And I would encourage you today to take God up on his gracious offer citizenship. You can begin that journey by simply praying, God, I want to be a citizen of Heaven. I want a hope that is found on more than what this life has to offer. Please accept me in to your kingdom. A prayer like that is just a starting point of a lifelong commitment to live with Christ as the king of your life. It's not how the story ends, but it is how the story begins.

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- Previously you were asked to research candidates and issues on the ballot. What conclusions have you reached? What is your biblical basis for it?
- Have you read the party platforms? Click below for links to each. Use your browsers search function to find the topics most important to you.

[Republican](#) *(the Republican Party has chosen to not adopt a new party platform for 2020 and continue with the 2016 platform linked here.)*

[Democratic](#)

[Libertarian](#)

[Green](#)

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Keep It Going

*Resources to help you keep growing
and learning this week.*

[Click here to learn more
about following Jesus.](#)

[Click here to review the sermon.](#)

[Click here to read the sermon
manuscript.](#)

Check out the “Under God?”
section of the Celebration App
for Election Resources.