

BUILDING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

Christians and Dual Citizenship

The paradox of two kingdoms:

Our _____ citizenship

2nd Timothy 2:4 (ESV)

⁴ No soldier gets entangled in **civilian pursuits**, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.

Philippians 3:20 (ESV)

²⁰ But **our citizenship is in heaven**, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ ...

Our _____ citizenship

Acts 21:39 (ESV)

³⁹ Paul replied, "I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, **a citizen of no obscure city**. I beg you, permit me to speak to the people."

Acts 22:25-29 (ESV)

²⁵ But when they had stretched him out for the whips, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, "Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is **a Roman citizen** and uncondemned?" ²⁶ When the centurion heard this, he went to the tribune and said to him, "What are you about to do? For **this man is a Roman citizen**." ²⁷ So the tribune came and said to him, "Tell me, **are you a Roman citizen?**" **And he said, "Yes."** ²⁸ The tribune answered, "I bought this citizenship for a large sum." Paul said, "But **I am a citizen by birth**." ²⁹ So those who were about to examine him withdrew from him immediately, and the tribune also was afraid, for he realized that **Paul was a Roman citizen** and that he had bound him.

So, what "city" should we care about?

Two errors:

1. Caring _____ about our earthly city

Psalms 20:7 (ESV)

⁷ Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

Psalms 118:9 (ESV)

⁹ It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.

Proverbs 25:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ Trusting in a treacherous man in time of trouble is like a bad tooth or a foot that slips.

2. Caring _____ about our earthly city

Why care about politics?

A. We care about God's _____ in the world.

Romans 11:36 (ESV)

³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (ESV)

³¹ So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

B. We care about God's _____ to people.

Romans 13:1-2,4 (ESV)

¹ Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For **there is no authority except from God**, and those that exist have been **instituted by God**. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists **what God has appointed**, and those who resist will incur judgment. ... ⁴ for he is God's servant **for your good**.

Romans 13:7 (ESV)

⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, **revenue** to whom revenue is owed, **respect** to whom respect is owed, **honor** to whom honor is owed.

1 Timothy 2:1-2 (ESV)

¹ I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, **that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life**, godly and dignified in every way.

C. We are good _____ and we care about the good of our _____.

“While it may be true that morality cannot be legislated, behavior can be regulated. It may be true that the law cannot change the heart but it can restrain the heartless. It may be true that the law cannot make a man love me but it can keep him from lynching me and I think that is pretty important, also.” – MLK, Jr.

4 considerations:

1) Temporal v. _____ (a question of priority or value)

Hebrews 13:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ For **here we have no lasting city**, but we seek the city that is to come.

Hebrews 11:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ For he was looking forward to **the city that has foundations**, whose designer and builder is God.

2) _____ but not _____ (a question of practicality)

1 Peter 2:11-12 (ESV)

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as **sojourners and exiles** ...

Jeremiah 29:7 (ESV)

⁷ But **seek the welfare of the city** where I have sent you into exile, and **pray to the LORD on its behalf**, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

3) _____ but not _____ (a question of distinctiveness)

John 17:15-16 (ESV)

¹⁵ **I do not ask that you take them out of the world**, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

² **Do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

James 1:27 (ESV)

²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to **keep oneself unstained from the world**.

4) _____ and _____ (a question of purpose)

Matthew 5:13-16 (ESV)

¹³ “You are the **salt of the earth**, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. ¹⁴ “You are the **light of the world**. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, **let your light shine** before others, so that they may see your **good works** and **give glory to your Father who is in heaven**.”