

For the Love of God and Country

Excerpt - Part Two

When things seem to be chaotic in my nation and the spirit of strife seems to have the upper hand, I have determined that God's way is not only the best way to deal with things, but it is also the most powerful and beneficial way to respond. I don't even claim to respond to things God's way every time, I just do my best to consistently apply the principles of the word of God to the circumstances that surround me. I am happier and I have deeper peace when I do. That is why, when time comes for the election of my nation's leaders, I run to the fortress of the word of God and take shelter. Why? Because I know a storm is coming and I want to be sheltered in His peace.

Elections, in the United States, have become extremely adversarial. The enemy has so influenced them that they now cause animosity, strife, division, and hate. As sons of God, and therefore "little anointed ones," we are commissioned by God to bring Him and His word on the scene. The word of God reveals the power of strife and envy in James 3:16, "*For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.*" We don't need confusion to reign in our nation and we sure don't want to open the door to every evil work. So, how do we bring God and His word to bear on the situation?

I was contemplating our national situation and the upheaval that was currently being headlined and I felt impressed by God to look at a couple of things. First, I am a citizen of heaven. I have become a new creature in Christ and I am seated with Him in heavenly places. Second, I have been left here on earth as an ambassador. What does knowing those two things have to do with praying and interceding for our nation? Plenty!

To begin with, let's get the definitions and foundations for these terms: citizen and ambassador. One of the definitions of a citizen is a legal member of a sovereign state or part of a nation. If you track the idea of citizen through the Bible, you will find that it is mentioned several times in different ways. One of the first came from Jesus Himself. In John 17:14-18, Jesus makes the declaration in His prayer to the Father that, "*They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.*" The Apostle Paul states in Ephesians 2:19, "*Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God.*" Our citizenship changed when we became new creatures in Christ.

The Apostle Paul, by the leading of the Holy Spirit, called us ambassadors in 2 Corinthians 5:20, "*Now then we are ambassadors for Christ.*" What is an ambassador? An ambassador, in the political sense of the word, is an individual who has been chosen and has the responsibility to represent the interests of the nation of which he is a citizen to foreign governments. He has an investment in the host country to which he has been assigned because he resides in that nation; however, he is not a citizen of that assigned country. He is commissioned to promote a smooth interaction between his home nation and the host nation, with the ruling authority over him being the country of his citizenship, not the country to which he has been sent as an ambassador.

When we, as believers, consider that our citizenship lies with heaven, we then have the option of viewing things that are happening on the earth in a totally different way. This knowledge can relieve distress, fear, and frustration – emotions associated with the way our earthly government is operating -- simply by realizing that the earth and our nation is not our "home". When we view things from that perspective, we can lay hold on the earnest expectation of good, or hope, that God gives us and allow Him to reveal His best plan for our future. We lay hold upon the privileges of our citizenship; then, we can pray in faith instead of in fear. We also have the right to ask God to look at things from His point of view, the one from His throne-room of power. Everything looks different through His eyes!

As citizens, we align ourselves with Him and His will, we can be empowered to see in accordance with His will and pray for the results that God wants, knowing that God can see the best course of action. We become His ambassadors and work together with Him to bring about the most profitable outcome for His kingdom, as well as for our earthly country. He needs us to do that. He needs us to fill that position

of ambassadorship and carry out the “*ministry of reconciliation*” that Jesus purchased for us with His precious blood.

If it is true that we love our nation and the people that it represents, then the ministry of reconciliation becomes a working reality in our everyday life and not just a scripture that we quote every once in a while. We not only become more aware every day of the love that God has “*shed abroad in our heart,*” but we also make demands on that love to fuel our ministry of reconciliation for all our fellow Americans. It changes both our outlook and our outreach: it affects our heart and our action.

Let us make the decision to ask God to give us an assignment today; one that will not only promote His kingdom, but one that will also promote peace, honesty, and love. We can be sure that if we do that, He will work in and through us to bring about the future He desires. If it is what He wills, then we can have confidence that it will all “*work together for good*”. Why? Because, we love God and we have taken our place to operate in accordance with His purpose.

Be exceedingly blessed today and be filled with all God’s fulness!

Additional Scriptural References: 1 Corinthians 5:17-20; Ephesians 2:6; Hebrew 12:22-23; Romans 5:5, 8:28

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