

# Sharing Christian Values with Our Nation

*(Philippians 3:17; 4:1)*

IT is sometimes hard to get a handle on the relationship a Christian is to sustain to the country in which he lives. We are to submit to laws (Romans 13:1). We are to honor the rulers (1 Peter 2:17) and pray for them (1 Timothy 2:1). Yet we are to be “aliens and strangers” on earth (1 Peter 2:11). We need to love our country but in its proper perspective. Christianity is not being an American, and being an American does not make us a Christian. But every Christian should be concerned about the country and how we can do our part to make it a better place to live. I want you to see three points Paul declares about improving our country.

## **I. BE CAREFUL IN CHOOSING LEADERS (Philippians 3:17)**

We cannot just follow anybody and be right, as we see in Jotham’s fable. Paul left us a pattern. With him, the cause was bigger than him or his goals. Some leaders are the enemies of the cross. Their end is destruction; their god is their belly. They are selfish. Their glory is their shame, and their mind is set on earthly things. The wrong kind of leaders anywhere will destroy you, as illustrated by Diotrephes.

## **II. REMEMBER WHERE YOUR CITIZENSHIP LIES (PHILIPPIANS 3:20, 21)**

We have a great country here. We need to make it better while we are here. But our home is in heaven. This is just a pilgrimage. We are seeking a country of our own (Hebrews 11:13-

16). As citizens of heaven we eagerly await Christ’s return. He will transform us and make our bodies like His. He is able to subdue all things to Himself.

There are some important implications of this fact. We must not become too attached to this world. It is passing. Our primary intent should be in heaven. Some things in this country will only be made right when Christ returns.

## **III. STAND UP FOR CHRIST (Philippians 4:1)**

We need to stand for some principles, not just be against everything. We should stand for morality. We should stand for helping people who are hurting. We need to help in establishing programs to help alcoholics, unwed mothers, the terminally ill, and prisoners. Too many in the world only know what we are against. We need to help the elderly. We are all getting older. We should help the children and give them guidance. But always remember that none of these are an end to themselves. We must use them to open doors to reach people for salvation.

## **CONCLUSION**

Remember the words of Jesus, “For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul?” (Matthew 16:26). We must realize we need Christ most of all.

—Leon Barnes