

Christians Facing a Corrupting Culture as Citizens of the USA

Philippians 2:14-16

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

Philippians 3:20-21

- Citizenship in heaven
 - Colossians 1:13-14
 - Earthly citizenship remains unchanged
 - Acts 22:25-28 – Paul remained a Roman citizen after he became a Christian

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Philippians 3:20-21

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

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Philippians 3:20-21

■ As Christians

■ 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

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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)

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.
 - What is expected of a Christian?

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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.**

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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**

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Matthew 22:15-22

■ **Pray fervently**

- **1 Timothy 6:15-16** – Sovereign, King of kings
- **Revelation 8:3-5** – Prayers of saints
- God has so established and circumscribed His rule that the prayers of believers can impact His rule!

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Matthew 22:15-22

■ Pray fervently

- Examples of men & women of faith
- **Luke 18:1-8**
- Her continual coming changed the judge's mind!
- **Jeremiah 18:6-10** – The Potter will change His mind!

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Matthew 22:15-22

- **Pray fervently**

- **Jeremiah 18:6-10**

- **The Potter will change His mind!**

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Matthew 22:15-22

- **Let our light shine on moral issues**
 - **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!**

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Matthew 22:15-22

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

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Matthew 22:15-22

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

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Matthew 22:15-22

■ **Let our light shine on moral issues**

- **Ephesians 5:10-12**

- **Abortion**

- **General morality**

- **Sanctity of marriage**

- **Pornography**

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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

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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!**

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Matthew 22:15-22

- **Use rights afforded us to preach the gospel!**

- **1 Timothy 2:1-4**

- **Romans 1:16-17**

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Matthew 22:15-22

**Remember the words
of the Potter!**

Jeremiah 18:6-10