

At-home Bible Study:

Citizenship Questions

The church and the state are two vastly different entities with hugely different God-given purposes. What kind of relationship does God want them to have? What kind of relationship does God want us to have with them? How can we be both Christian and citizen?

Today: How we talk politics matters to God!

We are so accustomed to hearing people complain about the government. We may be accustomed to complaining ourselves. It is seen as commonplace and acceptable. After all, how could we not complain? In this study, God will help us understand the significance of our complaints and what it means for our calling as Christian citizens.

Read  **1 Peter 2:13-17.**

Not every government official acts in a way that is worthy of respect. According to these verses, is there an exception for not respecting those whom we do not feel are worthy of it?

How do our words about earthly authorities reflect our attitude toward God?

God wants Christians who disagree with government policy or action to at the same time honor that government. What words might you want to avoid in your conversation so that you do not bring dishonor on the government?

Think of a government position or policy with which you disagree. Now, write or say out loud words which express disagreement while still giving honor to the government and government officials that hold that position or enacted that policy.

Read  **Psalm 2.**

“To be concerned” can have different meanings, such as: 1) to think about, to bring to mind, to consider, or 2) to worry, to be anxious, to be preoccupied with in an unhealthy way. According to Psalm 2, which of these definitions fit our concern for the government?

Look especially at verses 4-6. How does God react to earthly governments who may do things that go against God’s will?

Psalm 2 gives us incredible peace. Explain how this affects how we talk about governmental matters.

Read  **1 Timothy 2:1-4.**

According to these verses, for what should we pray when it comes to the government?

Write (or say out loud or pray silently) one such God-pleasing prayer.

How often do you pray a prayer like that for the government, and how often should you pray a prayer like that?

In verse 4, God connects praying for the state to mission work. We noted already (in a previous study) that God gives the church and the state very separate and distinct responsibilities. The church should not be the state, and the state should not be the church. How, then, does God connect mission work to praying for the state?

Homework!

If you are on social media, make a post that discusses the government in a God-pleasing way (and include a specific Scripture verse!). If you are not on social media, have a God-pleasing conversation with someone about the government that reflects the Biblical principles we have studied in this document.