



Church Connection August 2020

Strengthening, Preserving & Promoting Marriage, Family, Life & Religious Liberty

*For our conversation
[citizenship] is in heaven;
from whence also we look
for the Saviour, the Lord
Jesus Christ...*

Philippians 3:20

Mark Your Calendar!

Tuesday, August 11th,
Partisan Primary
Please be sure to vote!

Voting Resources

Register to vote, update
your voter information,
find your polling place and
more at myvote.wi.gov

For information on
candidates, visit:
ivoterguide.com

Make a commitment
to vote. Go to:
CommitToVoteWI.org

Quote Worthy

“I submit that we do not
love our neighbor well if
we have no concern about
whether our laws restrain
evil, as God defines that
term according to His
Word.”

~David Fowler

Citizens of Heaven

Paul reminded the Christians in Philippi that their citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20). When you think about it, that is an astounding reality for every believer. While we are incredibly blessed to be citizens of the United States, the blessing of this earthly citizenship is nothing in comparison to our heavenly citizenship.

When it comes to this issue of citizenship, followers of Jesus ought to avoid two extremes. One extreme is that of intense nationalism, where being a US citizen becomes one's primary identity, even to the point of idolatry. The opposite extreme suggests that since our citizenship is in heaven, we have no reason or responsibility to engage in the governance of our earthly home.



Our heavenly citizenship has significant implications for how we ought to live our earth-bound lives. One of the most important implications is that we are to live as ambassadors of God's Kingdom. We are told plainly that “we are ambassadors for Christ” (II Cor. 5:20). We represent the King of kings to a lost world. Everything we say and do is a reflection on King Jesus. What a privilege! What a responsibility! How well are you representing King Jesus in your relationships, your speech, your conduct, your priorities, your values, etc.? A good ambassador doesn't live for his own priorities.

A citizen of heaven ought also to be a model earthly citizen. This is reflected in I Peter 4:15: *But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.*

Citizens of heaven ought to be known for their good works. *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your*

(continued on back)

Worth Reading

If you would like to read more deeply on the topic in this issue of “Church Connection” we encourage you to get *The Politics of Loving God: Courageous Truths for Contentious Times*, by David Fowler, 167 pp.

David serves as the president of the Family Action Council of Tennessee and also served for 12 years as a state senator for Tennessee. The book includes a study guide and questions for each chapter and can easily be used for a small group study.

Another very helpful resource is *Biblical Principles for Political Engagement: World-view, Issues, and Voting*, 2nd edition, a 39 page booklet by David Closson. You can download a free PDF copy on our website, wifamily-council.org, under the Election Central tab, or call our office at 888-378-7395 for a printed copy.

We also recommend *One Nation Under God: A Christian Hope for American Politics*, by Bruce Ashford and Chris Pappalardo, 160 pp. Don't let the title bother you. In fact, the USA, like every other nation, is a nation “under God.” That is a theological truth. It is also a reminder that as a country, we should view it as a call to patriotic humility (p. 141).

good works and glorify your Father in heaven, (Matt. 5:16). *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all...* (Gal. 6:10).

As citizens of God's Kingdom, we should be known as those who love God and love our neighbors (Matt. 22:37-40). James refers to this as “the royal law” (James 2:8).

Citizens of heaven—ambassadors of King Jesus—are right to be concerned about laws and policies that are hurtful to our neighbors, both those who live close to us and those with whom we share citizenship. For this reason it is right and good for Christians to engage in governing and in the choice of those who make and enforce the laws.

Since our form of representative government has been ordained of God according to Romans 13, and since sin is a reproach to any people, while righteousness exalts a nation (Prov. 14:34), and since laws and policies impact every aspect of our lives, how can we justify not engaging in government, or justify not voting or voting for individuals who are hostile to biblical truth and principles?

Jeremiah was a foreigner, held captive by an enemy nation. Yet God told him to seek the welfare of the city where he lived and to pray for it (Jer. 29:7). How much more should we, as the King's ambassadors, seek the welfare of our own country? Notice that Jeremiah was to be actively engaged in working for the welfare of the city—“seek the peace of the city”—and he was also to “pray to the LORD for it.” We need to pray for our country, but we also need to engage in activity that will promote answers to our prayers. The people of God are called to pray, and we are also called to take action. *Faith without works is dead* (James 2:20. Cf. James 2:14-26).

As the fall primary and general election approach, let us commit ourselves to being good citizens of both our earthly and heavenly home. Let us commit to both praying for and working for the welfare of our “city.” Let us make sure that we have a living faith, not a “faith without works [which is] dead.” Let's serve the King of kings with our earthly citizenship, because we are citizens of Heaven.

About Wisconsin Family Council

Wisconsin Family Council is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so that they can be involved in strengthening, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and religious liberty in our state.

“Church Connection” is published monthly by WFC and is available to churches in Wisconsin.