

# Silver Creek Fellowship NOTES

September 29

## MODERN IDOLS POLITICS

**Hebrews 13:17 (NLT)** *Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.*

### AS CHRISTIANS:

#### 1. Our primary citizenship is in heaven

**Philippians 3:17-21 (NLT)** <sup>17</sup> "Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example. <sup>18</sup> For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup> They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth. <sup>20</sup> But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. <sup>21</sup> He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control."

**Philippians 1:27 (NLT)** *Live as Citizens of Heaven* <sup>27</sup> "Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News."

#### 2. We have a responsibility to engage in our secondary citizenship.

**Jeremiah 29:7 (NLT)** "And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare."

**Proverbs 31:8-9 (NLT)** <sup>8</sup> "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. <sup>9</sup> Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice."

**1 Peter 2:11-17 (NLT)** <sup>11</sup> "Dear friends, I warn you as 'temporary residents and foreigners' to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. <sup>12</sup> Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world. <sup>13</sup> For the Lord's sake, submit to all human authority—whether the king as head of state, <sup>14</sup> or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right. <sup>15</sup> It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. <sup>16</sup> For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. <sup>17</sup> Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king."

**Romans 13:6-7 (NLT)** <sup>6</sup> "Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they do. <sup>7</sup> Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority."

**Mark 12:13 (NIV)** "Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him in his words."

**Mark 12:14 (NIV)** "They came to him and said, 'Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?'"

**Mark 12:15-17 (NLT)** <sup>15</sup> "'Should we pay them, or shouldn't we?' Jesus saw through their hypocrisy and said, 'Why are you trying to trap me? Show me a Roman coin, and I'll tell you.' <sup>16</sup> When they handed it to him, he asked, 'Whose picture and title are stamped on it?' 'Caesar's,' they replied. <sup>17</sup> 'Well, then,' Jesus said, 'give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.'" His reply completely amazed them."

**Genesis 1:27 (NIV)** "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

## FINAL POINTS

### 1. Commit to unity inside the church and civility outside.

**Ephesians 4:3-6 (NLT)** <sup>3</sup> "Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. <sup>4</sup> For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. <sup>5</sup> There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all."

**Titus 3:1-2 (NLT)** "Remind the believers to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good. They must not slander anyone and must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone."

### 2. Remember the limits of politics.

"Imagine that we elected all the right people to the right offices—President, congress, governors, right down to the school board, city council members, and dog catcher. Let's imagine that all these ideal office holders instituted all the right policies. Let's imagine that we got all the propositions right. Every piece of legislation—from zoning laws to tax codes to immigration policy to crime bills—is just exactly the way you know it ought to be. Would that usher in the kingdom of God? Would the hearts of the parents be turned to their children? Would all marriages be models of faithful love? Would greed and pride be legislated out of existence? Would human beings now at last be able to master our impulses in areas of sexuality and anger and narcissism? Let's get a little more personal. Would you finally become the woman or man you know you ought to be?" — John Ortberg