



*The Christian Citizenship Committee (C3) provides information to the Christian community regarding critical issues that affect our faith, family, and government. Our goal is that believers, once equipped with this information, will seek God in fervent prayer and respond appropriately as God-fearing, patriotic Americans.*

## Hope: God's Healing Gift to Mankind

This year as a nation, we have once again placed on display what we have called the "peaceful transition of power" as we inaugurated our 45<sup>th</sup> President. Indeed the USA is the envy of the world, where we the people possess the power of self-government through the Rule of Law and can freely choose our leaders through the electoral process.

However, what is currently on display daily for all to witness in news clips and in the narratives of various political pundits is anything but peaceful and unified. The toxicity of the narratives has reached the point to where we have classes of the citizenry being pinned against one another without reason and with a hate that is increasingly destructive. The agendas of those in political power and not what is wholesome and good for the country, has become what is driving action. As a result, truth and reason have become stumbling blocks, while deception and exploitation have become tools of the trade. A classical "ends justify the means" approach to politics appears to

have a stronghold on our country where ideology overrides decency, absolute truth and the moral laws of God's universe. The fundamental premises for our form of government are being challenged by those in opposition and we cannot trust the messages being thrust upon us. Welcome to the postmodern world, where truth is considered relative and not representative of what is real.

Those who have read this far may be saying, "How gloomy a picture we have of our country. Is there any hope for us?" As Christ followers, our answer is an emphatic yes! "Where do we find this hope?" you ask. Our hope rests in fellowship with God Almighty. Only He can change hearts, which subsequently change nations, but He expects His people, the Church, to be usable vessels in His ministry. As Christ followers we are charged with being God's hands and feet on the earth testifying of His truth, hope and love to our hurting nation and ultimately the world. What does God's word say about how we can minister and help neutralize this trend? The template below, while familiar, may serve as a reminder that we can engage our leaders and those within our sphere of influence with the love and hope found in Christ.

**God loves you** – God's love for humanity is what led him to have mercy on us and he showed that by sending His son Jesus to earth. God's gift of grace was provided through the sacrifice of His son on the cross to pay our sin debt. We need to tell our leaders and neighbors that God loves them so much that He sacrificed His son so that anyone who would place their trust in Him would be saved with the hope of an eternity spent with God.



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**Just add Salt** – We are called to be the salt of the earth, Matt. 5:13. We are to engage all people with the same grace as God showed us when He saved us. Our message is to be gracious, as if seasoned with salt that we be found faultless among men. As Col. 4:6 states *“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt that ye know how to answer every man.”* If we lose our saltiness, we become indistinguishable from the world.

**This little light of mine** – As Christians, we have the light of Jesus Christ within us. The joy of the Lord and His wonderful peace fills us. We are to let our light shine brightly, like a city that’s set on a hill, whose light cannot be hid. Let us stand firmly for truth, integrity, honesty, reflecting the goodness of the Lord to a populace that has been told that truth is not absolute or even relevant.

**The truth will set you free** – Pilate asked Jesus, “What is truth?” So the fact that mankind has been deceived yet again on what truth is and whether it’s absolute, should not surprise us. We should strive to be witnesses of the truth that we have within us in Jesus. We should graciously present the truths of God through the testimony of our lives. We

need to be living proof that there is absolute truth and that it is important to know that truth, who is Jesus, and it will set you free of the bondage to sin.

As members of the Church, we have a duty as citizens of our country and an allegiance to Almighty God. We have a responsibility to be engaged with our leaders either to encourage them when standing for truth or to express concerns with those that may not. Either way we are to distinguish ourselves in our approach such that we bring glory to God. We also have a wonderful opportunity to bring God’s love to people around us; to be considerate and kind in our actions and words. It’s the Kryptonite to the negative, polarizing messages being dispensed daily by the world.

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