
COVID: Four Biblical Questions to Ask Ourselves



1. How does our heavenly citizenship supersede our national citizenship?
(Eph 2:19-22, Col 3:1-3,11, Phil 3:20)

2. When is civil disobedience God-honoring?
(Rom 13:1-2, 1 Pet 2:13-19)
 - Murder of the innocent (Ex 1:15-21, 1 Kgs 18)
 - Worship of false gods (Dan 3)
 - Forbidding worship of the true God (Dan 6)
 - Silencing the proclamation of the Gospel (Acts 5)

3. What values should shape my decision to gather with my church family?
(Heb 10:24-25, Acts 2:42-47, 1 Pet 4:10, 1 Cor 12:7, Eph 4:11-13)
 - Am I exalting myself over others?
 - Am I exalting my safety over faithfulness?

4. How do we prioritize unity in areas where we disagree?
(1 Cor 1:10-13,17, Eph 4:1-6)



Ephesians 2:19–22

^[19] So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ^[20] built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ^[21] in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ^[22] In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Colossians 3:1–3, 11

^[1] If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ^[2] Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ^[3] For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ^[11] Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

Romans 13:1–2

^[1] Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ^[2] Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.

1 Peter 2:13–19

^[13] Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ^[14] or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ^[15] For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. ^[16] Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ^[17] Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. ^[18] Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. ^[19] For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.

Hebrews 10:24–25

^[24] And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ^[25] not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Acts 2:42–47

^[42] And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ^[43] And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ^[44] And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ^[45] And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ^[46] And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ^[47] praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

1 Peter 4:10

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

1 Corinthians 12:7

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Ephesians 4:11–13

^[11] And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ^[12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ^[13] until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

1 Corinthians 1:10–13, 17

^[10] I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ^[11] For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ^[12] What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ^[13] Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ^[17] For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Ephesians 4:1–6

^[1] I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ^[2] with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ^[3] eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ^[4] There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—^[5] one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ^[6] one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

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February 7, 2021



Open: How has Covid impacted you personally?

Read & Discuss: *Ephesians 2:19-22; Colossians 3:1-3,11; Philippians 3:20*

1. According to these passages, in what ways has our faith in Christ made us citizens of heaven? How would you describe the ultimate aim of this new identity? How have you seen your understanding of this new citizenship alter your previous priorities?
2. As Christians, how should our *national* citizenship influence our thoughts and actions? How might we use our national citizenship in ways that can advance the spread of the Gospel? As citizens of heaven, are there national rights we should forego or laws we should disobey?

Read & Discuss: *Romans 13:1-2; 1 Peter 2:13-19*

3. According to Paul, governmental leaders have been appointed by God. How should this impact our attitude toward them? How do we reconcile what we read in these verses with regard to the many evil men and women who have been placed into leadership position throughout history?
4. Based on these verses, what is an appropriate motive for obeying our government authorities? What good effects have you seen come as a result of such obedience? What are some consequences of disobeying government authorities for anything less than a clear violation of a Scriptural command?

Read & Discuss: *Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 4:10; 1 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:11-13*

5. According to these verses, what are some things believers are to do when we meet together? What is meant to occur as a result? What happens when we avoid fellowshiping with other believers? How are you seeking to follow these commands under current restrictions?

Read & Discuss: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17, Ephesians 4:1-6

6. Why is it important for believers to maintain unity? What makes unity difficult in our present circumstances? How can we apply the instruction of Ephesians 4:2 in our situation today?

Pray: Ask God to give wisdom to our church body and to our church leaders as they navigate these difficult times. Ask God to cause us to overflow with humility, gentleness, patience, and love.

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