

I STAND FOR THE FLAG



I KNEEL FOR THE CROSS

In celebrating the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, I believe that this graphic aptly describes the Christian's relationship to his country.

Our Responsibility to Honor our Government

We stand for the flag because Scripture calls us to honor the authorities God has placed over us. Romans 13:1 reminds us that *"there is no authority except from God,"* and Titus 3:1 reminds us to be submissive to rulers and authorities. 1 Peter 2:13–14 tells us *"Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution..."* Furthermore, 1 Timothy 2:1–2 urges us to pray for *"kings and all who are in high positions."*

Respecting our nation reflects gratitude for the freedoms we enjoy and the sacrifices made by many people to gain and preserve these freedoms. Our leaders may be flawed (as we all are). We may not agree with all of the philosophies of our leaders, but we acknowledge their authority because God has placed them over us. We recognize that they must sometimes make tough and unpopular decisions to protect and serve our nation, and that they may make mistakes in doing so. Yet, we gladly stand before the flag, recognizing that God has greatly blessed our nation despite the flaws of its leaders.

Our Higher Allegiance to the Cross

But we kneel for the cross, because our highest loyalty belongs to Christ alone. Earthly governments are temporary — Christ's kingdom is eternal. Jesus says in Matt. 6:33 to *"seek first the kingdom of God,"* Phil. 3:20 reminds us that *"our citizenship is in heaven,"* and Acts 5:29 reminds us that if the government asks us to take part in evil, *"we must obey God rather than men."*

While the flag represents our civic duty, the cross represents our ultimate identity, hope, and moral compass. Christ defines right and wrong, and His Word sets the standard for how we live and what we stand for. His Word is Truth! We humbly kneel before His authority.

We Honor Our Government — But Never Blindly

So yes, we honor our government — but never with blind loyalty. When civic leaders promote or encourage evil, Christians must speak, stand, and vote against it. Isaiah 1:17 calls us to *"seek justice, correct oppression,"* Proverbs 29:2 warns that *"when the wicked rule, the people groan,"* Psalm 94:16 asks, *"Who will rise up for me against the wicked?"* and Ephesians 5:11 commands, *"Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them."* Jeremiah 29:7 further reminds us to *"seek the welfare of the city"* where God has placed you, for *"in its peace you will have peace"*.

Government is God's servant (*"there is no authority except from God"* Rom. 13:1), and it is the Christian's responsibility to warn against evil, and to support, promote and elect leaders who stand for the moral values that we know will further bless our nation.

This is not *"pushing our religion"* upon the nation, but rather promoting godly morals because we know these are best for the future peace and prosperity of our nation and its people. By the way, the constitutional separation between church and state is to protect the church from the state, not to protect the state from the church.

Discerning Truth

Our culture is loud, emotional, and constantly creating emotional narratives that demand outrage. There are leaders who distort and twist the truth to confuse people and encourage them to make decisions that will enrich or empower them (the leaders) personally but are not in the best interest of our nation. Colossians 2:8 warns us *“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy.”* Followers of Christ aren’t called to react to every emotional plea—we’re called to discern truth. Proverbs 14:15 reports *“The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps.”*

Emotional appeals may sound compassionate, but not all are rooted in righteousness. Scripture—not political emotion—must shape our convictions, compassion, and actions. Government can never become our savior. When the world shouts, when it pulls our emotional heart-strings – we listen to God. If a civic leader gives nice sounding narratives, but also defends and promotes abortion, homosexuality, gender confusion, mob rule, violence, and more – you can be sure they do not have the best interests of our nation and their constituents in mind. Isaiah 5:20 warned against people such as this, *“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light.”* Although speaking of spiritual matters, Romans 16:18 can also apply in the political realm: *“Such people are not serving Christ our Lord; they are serving their own personal interests. By smooth talk and glowing words they deceive innocent people.”*

The Bible condemns the reversal of moral standards, where people deliberately mislabel sin as righteousness and righteousness as sin. Scripture highlights the danger of rejecting God’s objective moral order and embracing subjective or culturally distorted values.

Christians are Light and Salt

Jesus, in Matthew 5:14-16 told His followers they were to be *“the light of the world”* and *“the salt of the earth”*. We are to boldly dispel the dark evil of the world with the light of God’s Word. We are, by our actions, words and votes to be “salt” – a preservative – preserving our nation from destroying itself. As stated above, this is not *“pushing our religion”* upon the nation but rather promoting godly morals because we know these are best for the future peace and prosperity of our nation.

Stand Proudly, Kneel Humbly

At this, the 250th anniversary of America’s founding, let us stand proudly before the flag, thanking God for the many blessings and freedoms He has given through this nation. And, let us kneel humbly before the cross, pleading that God will continue preserving our nation for the sake of those who follow Him and His Word, just as Abraham pleaded for the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:16-33).

And, above all, we give thanks to our God that He has looked with mercy upon us sinners, and *“Who so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life”* (John 3:16).

We honor the flag for earthly stability, but we worship Christ – for only through His sacrifice are we assured of an eternal future of peace and joy.

Glenn Oster, 07/04/2026