

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A GOOD SOLDIER CITIZEN OF THE NATION?

Proverbs 14:34; Ephesians 6:12-17

Introduction:

1. Have you heard it said, “Christians shouldn’t be in politics or government?”
2. Nothing could be further from the truth.
3. Secular politics shouldn’t get into Christianity, but Christianity must get into politics and the political system of our day.
4. The thought that Christians shouldn’t be involved with government and its affairs is foreign to the Bible and to the founding principles of this nation.
5. Those in the Bible that were politically involved included the following:

*Joseph (Genesis 39:2-3)	*Moses (Exodus 5:1)	*Joshua (Joshua 1:2-3)
*David (I Samuel 16:12-13)	*Solomon (I Kings 17:1)	*Elijah (I Kings 17:1)
*Ezra (Ezra 10:5)	*Nehemiah (Neh. 1:10)	*Esther (Esther 4:16)
*Isaiah (Isaiah 1:1-2)	*Jeremiah (Jer. 1:4-5)	*Ezekiel (Ezekiel 20:5-7)
*Daniel (Daniel 2:48)	*Hosea (Hosea 1:2)	*Joel (Joel 2:1)
*Amos (Amos 1:2)	*Jonah (Jonah 1:2)	*Micah (Micah 1:1-3)
*Nahum (Nahum 1:1-2)	*Habakkuk (Hab. 1:1,4)	*Zephaniah (Zeph. 1:2)
*Haggai (Haggai 1:5-7)	*Zechariah (Zech. 1:14)	*Malachi (Malachi 1:11)
6. In the New Testament, Paul describes living the Christian life as a good citizen in terms of war against evil, and our Lord is pictured as a Conqueror riding a white horse in the final battle of the ages (Revelation 19:11-21).
7. However, the role of a good citizen soldier in today’s world is one of using primarily spiritual instead of physical weapons.
8. Peter made the mistake between the two weapons and suffered the Savior’s rebuke concerning the use of his sword on the guard; but he received the Savior’s approval when he used the sword of the Spirit, and 3,000 were slain in their spirits and inducted into the Lord’s army. (Peter learned how to do battle.)

I. RECOGNIZE YOUR ENLISTMENT.

1. When we were saved, we were drafted into the army of our Lord.
 - A. Every Christian is a good or bad soldier.
 - B. In Matthew 16:18, we find the picture of the gates of hell being stormed and a city conquered for God’s glory.
2. Our commander had “all authority” (Matthew 28:18).
 - A. This authority includes that over Satan, sin, death and hell.
 - B. As soon as Israel was delivered from Egypt, they found themselves fighting a battle, but the leadership of Joshua and the prayer of Moses caused God to lead them through.

- C. Today, the church is under the leadership of the Lord Jesus who never gets tired in the battle for right.
- D. We are following a commander who has been rejected by the world, but who will be victorious in the end.
- E. The commander requires our participation for there can be no neutrality.

[Not only should we recognize our enlistment, but:]**II. RECOGNIZE YOUR ENABLEMENT.**

1. We have no strength of our own, so we must be strong in the grace of the Lord Jesus.
2. II Timothy 4:7 states, ***Exercise yourself rather unto godliness.***
3. The soldier of the Lord is to depend upon God’s grace and not on his own strength, experience, or expertise.
4. John 15:5 says, ***Without Me you can do nothing.***
5. The Lord wants us to know how weak we really are, but He has promised to give us grace and help in times of need (Heb. 4:16).
6. We must learn to fight battles with the Lord’s weapons.
 - A. In Exodus 2:11-14 it is recorded that Moses used physical strength and smote the Egyptian and had to flee for his life.
 - B. In Numbers 20:7-12, it is recorded that Moses smote the rock twice when he was commanded to speak to the rock; therefore, it cost him the promised land.
 - C. The injunction to the believer from the Lord is, ***Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ*** (II Timothy 2:3).