



ELEPHANTS IN THE ROOM Pt 2

“How Can I Be a Good Citizen
of Heaven & America
at the Same Time?”

[Jeremiah 29:4-7](#)

July 5, 2026

There must be balance & an ordering of priorities

[Matthew 22:34-41](#) [Peter 2:7](#)

- 1) We must love & serve Jesus first & foremost - above all else
- 2) We must love our neighbors as we love ourselves
- 3) We are citizens of heaven first and foremost
[Philippians 3:20](#); [Ephesians 2:19](#); [Hebrews 11:10](#)
- 4) We are citizens of the United States and must obey our government & it's laws consistent with God's Word [Romans 13:1-7](#); [Daniel 3:6](#); [Acts 4:19-20](#)

The Takeaways

- 1) We can love Christ & also be patriotic at the same time
- 2) We must seek the welfare & flourishing of our city, state, & nation
[Jeremiah 29:4-7](#)
- 3) Our patriotism must be balanced with our desire to know Christ & see all peoples & nations come to know Christ as their Savior & Lord.
[Philippians 3:1-8](#)
- 4) We cannot & must not stick our heads in the sand & abdicate our role in speaking into the public square [Matthew 5:13-16](#) t [John 17:13-17](#)
- 5) We must not check our faith at the door [Micah 6:8](#); [Romans 12:1-2](#)
- 6) We must pray for those who work in government and hold positions of power & authority given to them by the Lord. [1 Timothy 2:1-3](#)

Our Response:

8. How does loving Christ first actually make us better citizens?
9. What are some practical ways Christians can unintentionally allow patriotism to become more important than devotion to Christ? What are some signs that a believer's priorities have become out of balance?
10. Jeremiah instructed God's people to seek the welfare of Babylon while living in exile. What principles apply to Christians living in America today? What are practical ways believers can seek the flourishing of their community?
11. How can Christians demonstrate Christ's love toward neighbors who have very different political beliefs? How does the gospel help us love people with whom we strongly disagree?
12. In what ways should Christians think differently from the culture because they belong to Christ's kingdom? How does an eternal perspective help us avoid placing too much hope in earthly governments?
13. What does it mean to "not check your faith at the door" in your workplace, school, or community?
14. Jesus calls believers to be salt and light. What does that look like in today's culture? How can Christians speak truth with both courage and grace in the public square?