## CIVIL CHRISTIANITY

**Civil** = public/political
**Civil** = respectful/polite.

1. Show RESPECT for what God has created.

**Romans 13:1-5** "[1] Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. [2] Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. [3] For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. [4] For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. [5] Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience." (NIV)

**1 Peter 2:13-14** "[11] Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. [12] Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. [13] Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, [14] or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. [15] For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. [16] Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. [17] Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor." (NIV)

**Acts 5:29** "Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings!" (NIV)

2. Remember JESUS is the hope of the world, not POLITICS or a POLITICIAN.

**Psalm 20:7** "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God." (NIV)

**Psalm 146:3** "Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save." (NIV)

**Ephesians 1:3-14** "3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. 11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory." (NIV)

3. There is still EVIL in the world.

**Matthew 15:19** "For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander." (NIV)

**Ephesians 6:12** "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (NIV)

**2 Corinthians 4:4** "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." (NIV)

4. Realize they are going to HATE us no matter what we do.

**John 7:7** "The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil." (NIV)

**John 15:18-19** "18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you." (NIV)

**1 Timothy 3:11-13** "12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived." (NIV)

5. We are to LOVE not HATE our enemies (including political).

**Matthew 5:21-22** "21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell." (NIV)

**Luke 6:27-36** "27 "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you. 32 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. 35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." (NIV)

6. Counter hate with KINDNESS.

**Romans 12:19-21** "**19** Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay, says the Lord." **20** On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (NIV)

**1 Thessalians 5:15** "Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is **good** for each other and for everyone else." (NIV)

**1 Peter 3:14-16** "14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." 15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander." (NIV)

7. Understand that SLANDER is SLANDER.

**Proverbs 10:18** "Whoever conceals hatred with lying lips and spreads slander is a fool." (NIV)

**Ephesians 4:30-32** "30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and **slander**, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." (NIV)

**Titus 3:1-2** "1 Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, 2 to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone." (NIV)

8. Do what it takes to learn the TRUTH.

**2 Peter 2:2** "Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of **truth** into disrepute." (NIV)

**2 Timothy 4:3-4** "3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths." (NIV)

**Proverbs 23:23** "Get the facts at any price, and hold on tightly to all the good sense you can get." (TLB)

9. Be willing to LISTEN on both sides.

**Proverbs 18:13** "To answer before listening— that is folly and shame." (NIV)

**Proverbs 18:17** "In a lawsuit the first to speak seems right, until someone comes forward and cross-examines." (NIV)

**James 1:19-20** "**19** My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, **20** because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires." (NIV)

10. Be PEACEMAKERS not POT STIRRERS.

**Hebrews 12:14** "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord." (NIV)

**Romans 12:18** "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." (NIV)

**James 3:18** "Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness." (NIV)

11. Remember God CARES ABOUT those who oppose Him.

**Matthew 5:43-48** "43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. **He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.** 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet

only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (NIV)

**Luke 23:34** "Jesus said, "Father, **forgive them**, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots." (NIV)

**2 Peter 3:9** "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." (NIV)

**BOTTOM LINE**

**1 Timothy 2:1-6** "1 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time." (NIV)

**Psalm 31;24** "Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD." (NIV)