



Sermon Notes: Model Citizens

1. A Posture.

- Our default posture should be to obey and respect our leaders.

2. A Priority.

- It is always the Christian's priority to do the will of God.

3. A Purpose.

- a. To minimize criticism of the Christian life.
- b. To maximize your witness for Christ.

4. A Perspective.

- You are free in Christ because you are a servant of Christ.

5. A Practice.



Gospel Applications: Model Citizens

1. What words would you use to describe American politics in the 21st Century? How would you describe the political involvement of Christians over the same time period?
2. How do you think non-Christians in general perceive the civic/political involvement of Christians? To what do you attribute their perceptions?
3. Based on your own observations, where/how are Christians doing the most harm civically? Where/how are they doing the most good civically?
4. What makes the default posture of obedience and honor toward authorities difficult for you personally? What hinders you? How do you tend to justify not obeying and honoring your authorities?
5. Nero was the emperor of the Roman Empire when Peter penned these words to the Church. How does that shape your understanding and application of his words today?
6. Give some practical examples of things you obey "*for the Lord's sake*," and not simply because you like them or agree? How does this principle change your perspective on submission to your earthly authorities?
7. What are some ways Christians use their freedom in Christ as a pretext for disobedience? What would be a Gospel-driven alternative in each case?
8. In the big picture, how does your Gospel hope free you to submit to, honor, and even serve people you don't agree with?
9. What are some specific, practical ways you might honor someone you disagree with? What are some specific, practical ways you might seek the common good in local civic life?
10. What one thing will you change in response to this message?