



Be a Good Citizen

Name calling and demonizing those with whom you disagree have been around for a long time. Jesus was called a drunkard and a glutton by those who opposed him. The same people said of John the Baptist that he had a demon. ([Luke 7:33-34](#)) Jesus was accused of being in cahoots with the devil. ([Luke 11:14-23](#))

This is another place where the kingdom of this world and the Kingdom of God are in sharp contrast. Unfortunately, the sharp contrast is not always evident among those who claim citizenship in the Kingdom of God. The sinful behavior of God's people never changes the nature of the Kingdom of God or the clear instructions He has given for those who are citizens of it.

The Sermon on the Mount gives us the clearest description of the expectations of a citizen of the Kingdom of God. In it, Jesus gives us guidance on how to engage those with whom we disagree and those who would stand in opposition or even be hostile toward us.

First, Jesus warns against dehumanizing people. Jesus said, 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire. Matthew 5:22 (NKJV) That word, "Raca" means "you are worthless". This teaching is in the context of this verse: 21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' Matthew 5:21 (NKJV) Do not

miss the connection. Jesus is saying that the first step to destroy a person physically is to dehumanize him or her. God knows that it is a short step from considering someone as worthless to having no problem with their destruction. This should be a sobering thought for us in a day of demonizing those with whom we disagree with the resulting death threats, and public calls for the death of opponents.

Jesus then goes on to really show a stark contrast between the kingdoms of this world and the Kingdom of God by this teaching: 43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. Matthew 5:43-48 (ESV)

The citizen of God’s kingdom will view any person as a person made in the image of God, broken by sin and in need of a Savior. The passion of our heart must be to exert every influence and means God has given us to help prepare that person to meet Jesus. Our outcry must be an outcry to God for their salvation and resulting sanctification. May we live as citizens of the Kingdom of God that the kingdoms of the world are impacted so that the prayer, “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven” will increasingly become a reality. ([Matthew 6:10](#))

Pastor Leung



Services are recorded and can be found at valleyconnex.org/sermons.

**Worship
Attendance**

**Sunday
1/17/21**

**8:00 am - 87
10:45 am - 88**

Celebrate

**BIRTHDAY
BLESSINGS**

21 Liz Schaidler
22 Jane Christenson
22 Hadley Creamer
22 Ethan Perez
24 Tim Steward
25 Jack Juedes
26 Karridi Kelly
27 Walter Janssen

**ANNIVERSARY
WISHES**

26 Guy & Annette Woloszyn



**Do you love babies? Do you love toddlers? Do you love ministering to parents?
If you answered yes to any of these questions, please consider helping in our
nursery at Valley.**

We are looking to fill the nursery schedule for 2021.

**The ages are babies-3 years old. We need volunteers that are willing to work
either at the 8 o'clock service or the 10:45 service.**

**Please contact Jim or Hope at 920-716-0375 if you have any questions or if you
want to volunteer.**



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