

A Biblical Framework for Being a Dual Citizen

Big Idea: As Americans, we celebrate our nation—but remember: our ultimate citizenship is in heaven. Love your country, but live as a faithful steward knowing this is temporary. Set your eyes on Christ and the eternal home awaiting us. Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

Day 1: Living as
Strangers and Exiles

Reading:
Hebrews 11:8-16;
1 Peter 2:11-12

The heroes of faith understood something profound: they were strangers on earth, looking toward a heavenly home. Abraham left everything familiar, not because he despised his homeland, but because he glimpsed something greater. Like a traveler staying in a hotel, he knew not to invest everything in temporary accommodations. Consider how you're investing your time, energy, and resources. Are you pouring everything into what you'll eventually leave behind? This doesn't mean neglecting your responsibilities or failing to care for what God has entrusted to you. Rather, it means holding earthly things with open hands, recognizing that your true citizenship is elsewhere. Today, identify one area where you're too attached to temporary things. Ask God to help you loosen your grip and redirect your focus toward eternal investments—relationships, character development, and kingdom work that will outlast this world.

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Day 2: Faithful
Stewardship

Reading:
1 Corinthians 4:1-7;
Matthew 25:14-30

Everything you possess—your body, relationships, possessions, talents, and even your citizenship—belongs to God. You're not the owner; you're the manager. This truth should simultaneously humble and liberate you. You're not responsible for creating resources, only for faithfully stewarding what's been entrusted to you. The steward in Jesus' parable wasn't judged by how much he was given, but by his faithfulness with what he received. Some of us have been given much; others have different gifts and opportunities. The question isn't whether you have more or less than others, but whether you're faithful with what God has placed in your hands. Evaluate your stewardship today. Are you managing your time, talents, and treasure as though they belong to someone else—because they do? What would change if you truly lived as a steward rather than an owner? Ask God to show you one specific area where you need to exercise more faithful stewardship.

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Day 3: Gratitude in All Circumstances

Reading:
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18;
Romans 12:9-15

"Give thanks in all circumstances"—not for all circumstances, but in them. This distinction matters. God doesn't ask you to be grateful for injustice, suffering, or evil. Instead, He calls you to maintain a thankful heart toward Him even when circumstances are difficult. The early Christians practiced gratitude while facing persecution. They didn't thank God for their suffering, but they thanked Him in the midst of it—for His presence, His promises, and His ultimate victory. Gratitude isn't denial of pain; it's defiance against despair. Today's challenge: rejoice with those who rejoice AND weep with those who weep. American Christians can easily celebrate our freedoms while forgetting those who suffer. Identify someone whose experience differs from yours—perhaps someone facing injustice, discrimination, or hardship. Rather than telling them to be more grateful, enter into their pain. Ask how you can support them, listen to their story, and demonstrate Christ's compassion. True gratitude includes empathy for those whose circumstances make thanksgiving difficult.

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Day 4: Making Disciples
for the Kingdom

Reading:
Matthew 28:16-20;
2 Timothy 2:1-7

Jesus' final command wasn't to build buildings, create programs, or even plant churches—though these can serve the mission. His command was simple: make disciples. This is the one work on earth with eternal significance. Buildings crumble, nations rise and fall, but transformed lives last forever. Discipleship isn't complicated, though it is costly. It requires investing your life in others, moving from rows to circles to one-on-one relationships. Paul discipled Timothy, who discipled faithful people, who taught others also—a multiplication effect that continues today. Who are you pouring into? If no one comes to mind, ask God to bring someone across your path. It might be a new believer, a struggling Christian, or someone exploring faith. Don't wait until you feel qualified—Paul told Timothy to teach others "what you have heard from me." Share what you're learning, even as you continue growing. Consider reaching out to your pastor or a mature believer to express your desire to be discipled or to disciple others.

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Day 5: Seeking First the Kingdom

Reading:
Matthew 6:25-34;
Colossians 3:1-4

"Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." This prayer reorients everything. It acknowledges that God's kingdom purposes supersede national interests, personal preferences, and cultural expectations. Seeking first His kingdom means that when earthly loyalties conflict with heavenly ones, the choice is clear. This doesn't make you less engaged in earthly responsibilities—quite the opposite. Kingdom citizens should be the best neighbors, most trustworthy employees, and most compassionate community members. But your motivation differs. You serve not to build your own kingdom or even primarily to improve your nation, but to reflect the character of your true King. Benjamin Rush, a founding father and devoted Christian, concluded his reflections on America with "Come quickly, Lord Jesus." He loved his country but loved his Savior more. Today, examine your priorities. What consumes your thoughts, time, and passion? If Jesus returned today, would He find you invested primarily in temporary kingdoms or His eternal one? Set your mind on things above, and watch how it transforms your engagement

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with things below.
