



IS IT TIME FOR THE CHURCH TO CHANGE?

SUMMER SERIES WITH RCC





IMMIGRATION:

**IS THE CHURCH ADDRESSING INVADERS
OR WELL-INTENDED PILGRIMS?**



Colossians 4:5-6

⁵ Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

A Couple of Caveats

- Not going to solve this today
- The problem is worse and more complicated than I can adequately communicate
- Going to deal primarily with illegal immigration

Our Challenging Situation

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- Genesis 3 – the fall, brokenness, sin, suspicion
- Genesis 11 – Tower of Babel – division into different lands, different languages, different systems

Our Challenging Situation

- Paul, in Romans 13, wrote that government is established by God for our good – a system of punishments and rewards - to establish a foundation upon which we all can live and cooperate

Our Challenging Situation

- Legal Immigration in the US
 - People from different lands with different languages and ideas all coming to the New World
- Ben Franklin – 1755

Ben Franklin

“...they come in droves...few of their children in the country learn English; they import many books from Germany; and of the six printing houses in the province, two are entirely German...they will soon so out number us, that all the advantages we have will not in my opinion be able to preserve our language, and even our government will become precarious.”

Ben Franklin

“...Why should Pennsylvania, founded by the English, become a colony of aliens, who will shortly be so numerous as to Germanize us instead of our Anglifying them, and will never adopt our language or customs, any more than they can acquire our complexion...But perhaps I am partial to the complexion of my country, for such kind of partiality is natural to mankind.”

Our Challenging Situation

- Today – there are more than 40 million immigrants in US (13% of the total population)
- Of that 40 million – more than 10 million have entered the country illegally (without proper documentation)

Our Challenging Situation

- Instability and Corruption in Latin America
 - Of the last five presidents in Guatemala –
 - 3 are in prison or out on bail
 - 1 was not charged, but his brother and son were
 - the last is still in office

Our Challenging Situation

- Instability and Corruption in Latin America
- Homicide Rates in Latin America

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 - Homicide rate in UK – 1.2 per 100,000

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 - US – 5

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 - Honduras – 56
 - El Salvador –

Our Challenging Situation

- Instability and Corruption in Latin America
- Homicide Rates in Latin America
 - Homicide rate in UK – 1.2
 - US – 5
 - Mexico – 20
 - Honduras – 56
 - El Salvador – 82

Our Challenging Situation

- The Current System for Entering the US:
 - Family Reunification
 - Employer Sponsored
 - Refugees Seeking Asylum

Our Challenging Situation

- Cap on number of family visas per country
- That cap is 15,820/country
- Right now, in line to legally immigrate from Mexico with a **family reunification** visa...

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- Right now, in line to legally immigrate from Mexico with a family reunification visa...

1,219,977

Our Challenging Situation

- 1,219,977 in line / 15,820 per year =

Our Challenging Situation

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77 years

Our Challenging Situation

- In the line to request asylum:

Our Challenging Situation

- In the line to request asylum: 386,000

Our Challenging Situation

- In the line to request asylum: 386,000
which means a...
estimated 4 - 5 year wait

Our Challenging Situation

What do desperate people do...

Our Challenging Situation

What do desperate people do...
they come any way they can

Our Challenging Situation

- In March of 2021 - A record 18,890 unaccompanied minors crossed the US-Mexico border illegally.

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- In March of 2021 - A record 18,890 unaccompanied minors crossed the US-Mexico border illegally.
- It is estimated that up to 60% of the unaccompanied minors trying to cross alone are caught by the cartels

Our Conflicting Thoughts

- Our country has every right to limit immigration
- We have agreed upon laws and processes
- If our laws don't have consequences, it will be chaos

Our Conflicting Thoughts

- We also know we are to love people
- But, if we love and help those who break the law, aren't we undermining those laws
- Wouldn't that be a failure to properly submit to our governing authorities

Our Central Text for Today

Luke 10:25-37

Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” ²⁷ And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You

Luke 10:25-37

have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus,

“And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man

was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he

fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him

and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by

chance a priest was going down that road, and

when he saw him he passed by on the other side.

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Luke 10:25-37

³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.

³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two

Luke 10:25-37

denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

Our Central Text

- We are called to love our neighbor as ourselves

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- **We are called to respond to the needs around us**

Our Central Text

- We are called to love our neighbor as ourselves
- We are called to respond to the needs around us
- **We are called to broaden who we see as a neighbor**

Christ-like Love For Our Neighbor

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- Remember we said –
In Romans 13, that government is established by God for our good – a system of punishments and rewards - to establish a foundation upon which we all can live and cooperate

Christ-like Love For Our Neighbor

- Undocumented/Illegal Immigrants

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 - See them through the eyes of Christ

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 - **Love – be kind, seek their good**

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 - **Help with immediate needs**

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 - **Vote for a system that is wise and welcoming**

Christ-like Love For Our Neighbor

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 - See them through the eyes of Christ
 - Love – be kind, seek their good
 - Help with immediate needs
 - Vote for a system that is wise and welcoming
 - Be a good steward of this opportunity

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 - Love - be kind, seek their good
 - Help with immediate needs
 - **Treat immigrants with the same respect as those in the country for generations**

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO BE GIVEN TO THE PERSON NATURALIZED

ORIGINATOR

Application No. 22 A-294

Personal description of holder, as of date of naturalization: Age _____, sex _____, complexion Dark, color of eyes _____, color of hair _____, weight 145 pounds, visible distinctive marks _____

Marital status Single

I certify that the description above given is true, and that the photograph is a true and correct likeness of the holder.



James W. Dore

Seal

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO BE GIVEN TO THE PERSON NATURALIZED

ORIGINATOR

Petition No. 3788

Personal description of holder, as of date of naturalization: Age 26 years, sex _____, complexion medium, color of eyes brown, color of hair dk. brown, weight 127 pounds, visible distinctive marks none

Marital status --married--

I certify that the description above given is true, and that the photograph is a true and correct likeness of the holder.



Mildred Willbarta Love

Seal

ORIGINATOR

(Complete and true signature of petitioner)

United States of America, s.s.
Territory of Hawaii.

Best known that Mildred
then residing at 820 Sixteenth
having petitioned to be admitted as citizen
a term of the U. S. District
Hawaii
Honolulu, T. H.

The court having found that the petitioner, Mildred Willbarta Love, had in all respects complied with the laws in such case applicable, and was entitled to be admitted as citizen, the court do hereby order that the petitioner be admitted as citizen.

In testimony whereof the seal of the court is hereunto set on the day of February in the year Forty and Sixty-fourth

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Christ-like Love For Our Neighbor

- Documented/Legal Immigrants
 - See them through the eyes of Christ
 - Love - be kind, seek their good
 - Meet needs. Treat with respect
 - **Obey the laws regarding hiring and compensation**

Christ-like Love For Our Neighbor

- Documented/Legal Immigrants
 - See them through the eyes of Christ
 - Love - be kind, seek their good
 - Meet needs. Treat with respect
 - Obey the laws regarding hiring and compensation
 - **Be faithful witnesses to Christ's love**

Christ-like Love For Our Neighbor

- Undocumented/Illegal Immigrants
- Documented/Legal Immigrants
- Fellow Citizens

Christ-like Love For Our Neighbor

- Fellow Citizens
 - See them through the eyes of Christ
 - Love – be kind, seek their good

Christ-like Love For Our Neighbor

- Fellow Citizens
 - See them through the eyes of Christ
 - Love – be kind, seek their good
 - **Recognize there is room to differ on policy**

Christ-like Love For Our Neighbor

- Fellow Citizens
 - See them through the eyes of Christ
 - Love – be kind, seek their good
 - Recognize there is room to differ on policy
 - **Lovingly stand for loving our neighbors**