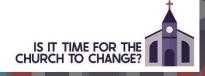
# TIME FOR THE CHURCH TO CHANGE? SUMMER SERIES WITH RCC

# IMMIGRATION: IS THE CHURCH ADDRESSING INVADERS OR WELL-INTENDED PILGRIMS?

#### Colossians 4:5-6

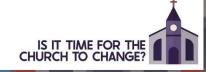
<sup>5</sup> Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. <sup>6</sup> Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.



#### 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





 Genesis 3 – the fall, brokenness, sin, suspicion

 Genesis 11 – Tower of Babel – division into different lands, different languages, different systems

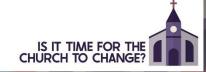


 Paul, in Romans 13, wrote that government is established by God for our good – a system of punishments and rewards - to establish a foundation upon which we all can live and cooperate



- 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**

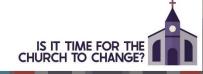
"...Why should Pennsylvania, founded by the English, become a colony of aliens, who will shortly be so numerous as to Germanize us instead of our Anglifying them, and will never adopt our language or customs, any more than they can acquire our complexion...But perhaps I am partial to the complexion of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

 Today – there are more than 40 million immigrants in US (13% of the total population)

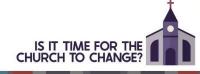
 Of that 40 million – more than 10 million have entered the country illegally (without proper documentation)



- 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



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



- Instability and Corruption in Latin America
- Homicide Rates in Latin America
  - Homicide rate in UK 1.2 per 100,000



- Instability and Corruption in Latin America
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  - Mexico –



- Instability and Corruption in Latin America
- Homicide Rates in Latin America
  - Homicide rate in UK 1.2
  - US 5
  - Mexico 20



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



- Instability and Corruption in Latin America
- Homicide Rates in Latin America
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  - US 5
  - Mexico 20
  - Honduras 56



- Instability and Corruption in Latin America
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  - US 5
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  - Honduras 56
  - El Salvador –



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



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

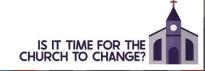


- Cap on number of family visas per country
- That cap is 15,820/country
- Right now, in line to legally immigrate from Mexico with a family reunification visa...



- 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...

1,219,977



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



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

77 years



In the line to request asylum:



• In the line to request asylum: 386,000



In the line to request asylum: 386,000 which means a...

estimated 4 - 5 year wait



What do desperate people do...



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



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



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 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

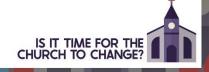


<sup>25</sup> And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>26</sup> He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" <sup>27</sup> And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with 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.

have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." <sup>29</sup> 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

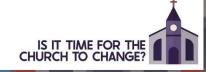
<sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 And the next day he took out two

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?" <sup>37</sup> 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



### **Our Central Text**

We are called to love our neighbor as ourselves

We are called to respond to the needs around us



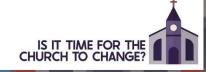
### **Our Central Text**

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





• 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



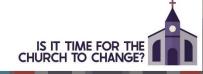
Undocumented/Illegal Immigrants



- Undocumented/Illegal Immigrants
  - See them through the eyes of Christ



- Undocumented/Illegal Immigrants
  - See them through the eyes of Christ
  - Love be kind, seek their good



- Undocumented/Illegal Immigrants
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  - Help with immediate needs



- Undocumented/Illegal Immigrants
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  - Vote for a system that is wise and welcoming



- Undocumented/Illegal Immigrants
  - 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



- Documented/Legal Immigrants
  - See them through the eyes of Christ
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- Documented/Legal Immigrants
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- Documented/Legal Immigrants
  - See them through the eyes of Christ
  - Love be kind, seek their good
  - Help with immediate needs
  - Treat immigrants with the same respect as those in the country for generations





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- 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



- 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



Undocumented/Illegal Immigrants

Documented/Legal Immigrants

Fellow Citizens



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



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



- 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

