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**Exiles and Citizens
A Fourth of July Message**

**4 Corners Church
July 5, 2026**

Faithful Christians seek God's kingdom while faithfully serving the nation where God has placed them.

1. God Designs Nations for a Purpose

Jeremiah 29:1-6 ¹ *These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon... ..It said: ⁴ "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. ⁶ Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease.*

- God didn't remove His people from Babylon. He sent them there for a purpose.
- God wasn't calling them to faithful isolation. He was calling them to faithful presence.

2. Seek the Welfare of Your City

Jeremiah 29:7-9 ⁷ *But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. ⁸ For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, ⁹ for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the LORD.*

- God tells His people: "I know Babylon is broken. Help it flourish anyway."
- He doesn't say become Babylon. He doesn't say withdraw from Babylon. He says bless Babylon.

3. Pray for Your Government

1 Timothy 2:1-6 ¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all...

- Government matters. If government didn't matter—God wouldn't tell us to pray for it.
- The Biblical model is "Prayer Before Politics."

4. Government Is God's Servant, Not God's Savior

- Only Jesus is King.
- Government makes a terrible messiah.

5. Citizenship Matters in a Constitutional Republic

- Voting Is Stewardship.
- If God has entrusted to you influence, why wouldn't you steward it?
- One day we'll answer to God for everything entrusted to us. Including influence.

6. Government is part of God's Design

- **Proverbs 14:34** *Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.*
- **Proverbs 29:2** *When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan.*
- **Romans 13:1-7** *Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God....*

7. A Biblical Worldview

- The greatest crisis isn't political. It is spiritual.
- The Church doesn't merely preach salvation. It also teaches wisdom.

8. Engage Without Becoming Captured

- Some Christians have become politically obsessed.
- Others have become politically absent.
- The Bible rejects both extremes.

Until Heaven comes, be the kind of citizen on earth that makes your neighbors thankful you know Jesus.