

Ministers of Justice: The Civil State Defends

The Purpose and Means of Civil Government

Q: What is the **purpose** of civil government?

A1: The civil government is God's _____ of justice (Rom 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17)

Q: How does civil government minister God's justice?

A1: The civil government wisely _____ God's standard of justice (Rom 13:1-7)

A2: The civil government _____ transgressions with the _____

A3: It justly bears the sword to _____ the life and property of its citizens

Immigration

- Everyone has an _____ (his)story

- Issues connected to immigration include:
 - God and immigration (_____; Mt 2:31-14; 25:35)

 - Evangelical Immigration Table:
 - “As evangelical Christian leaders, we call for a bipartisan solution on immigration that:
 1. Respects the God-given dignity of every person
 2. Protects the unity of the immediate family
 3. Respects the rule of law
 4. Guarantees secure national borders
 5. Ensures fairness to taxpayers
 6. Establishes a path toward legal status and/or citizenship for those who qualify and who wish to become permanent residents”

Gen 1:27-28; Exod 12:49; 22:21; 23:9; Lev 19:9-10; Deut 1:16; Jer 22:3

- Sojourner vs. Foreigner
 - Sojourner [Hebrew: *ger*] (Gen 23:4; Exod 12:43-51; 22:21; Lev 18:8-9; Num 15:14; Lev 19:33-34; 25:6, 23, 35, 40, 47; Deut 14:28-29; Num 35:15; 1 Chron 29:15) = _____ outsider

 - Foreigner [Hebrew: *nokhrim; bene-nekhar*] (Gen 17:12; Lev 22:25; Exod 12:43; Deut 15:1-3; Deut 23:20; Gen 35:2, 4; Deut 31:16; 32:12; Josh 24:20, 23; Judg 10:16; 1 Sam 7:3; Psalm 137:4; Psalm 18:44-45; 144:7, 11; Isa 60:10; 61:5; 62:8; Jer 5:19; 8:19; Ezek 44) = _____ outsider

 - The OT makes a _____ between these two sociocultural groups (Deut 14:21; 15:1-3; 23:19-20; Prove 5:7-9)
 - Principle: Foreigners should be treated _____, per legal status

 - O Israel, how should you treat the sojourner? (Exod 23:9; Lev 19:33-34; Deut 10:12-22; 24:17-18; 27:19; Jeremiah 7:1-7; Malachi 3:5)
 - Grant them _____ privileges

 - Welcome them to _____ YHWH

 - Protected them from _____ (Deut 24:17; 27:19; Mal 3:5; Psalm 94:6-7; 146:9; Jeremiah 22:3; Zechariah 7:10)

 - Approches to outsiders: (1) _____ OR (2) _____ (Isa 56:1-8)

Borders

- Sojourners: “The movement of people is as natural as the flow of water. In harmony with creation and the native people of each land, all people have the right to migrate, whether for survival or flourishing.”¹
- Borders were established and recognized (Exod 16:35; Josh 4:19; 1 Kings 4:21; 1 Sam 27:1; Num 20:14)
- Borders between _____; with geographical _____
- Ezra-Nehemiah
- Hoffmeier: Foreigners needed to ask _____ to enter (Genesis 47:1-6ff)

Sanctuary Cities

Principles of Immigration in Ancient Times (James Hoffmeier)

1. A nation has the right to determine _____ can _____ into its territory
2. Legal entry happens when the host nation _____ someone to enter
3. The OT laws were applicable to those who came _____
4. The NT expands the redemptive arc (i.e. we are all sojourners in a sense). However, the NT doesn't nullify the responsibility of people to respect the law and the authority of the civil state (Rom 13)

Immigration within the USA in 2025

- Immigration history has a checkered past
- Waves of immigration
- Number of illegal immigrants
- Status of illegal immigrants
- Where do they live?
- Where do they come from?

What are problems that come with illegal immigration?

¹ <https://sojo.net/join/campaigns/immigration>

Immigration Policy Options

Step 1: _____ the borders

Step 2: _____ the out-of-control immigration system

- Stop _____

- Reform immigration _____ for entrance

- Reform _____

Step 3: Enforce tighter regulations on _____ regarding illegal immigrants

Step 4: _____ illegal immigrants who are already _____

- _____ criminals

- Require temporary _____ of immigrants

- Create difficult but possible _____ to full citizenship

How should the church relate to immigrants?

What about guest worker programs?
