

Christian Hospitality at the Border



The Christian approach to immigration, especially when it comes to illegal immigration, involves finding a balance between showing compassion and respecting the law. The Bible provides many teachings to help believers navigate this issue. Christians are encouraged to care for those in need, reflecting Jesus' love and charity. At the same time, there is also an obligation to respect and adhere to the laws of the land. This balance challenges believers to act with kindness while also supporting fairness and order in society. Faith plays a crucial role in guiding how Christians respond to these complex situations.

Biblical Compassion and Law

The Bible urges believers to show kindness to strangers and foreigners, which is a recurring theme throughout Scripture. Passages from Exodus and Leviticus emphasize the importance of treating foreigners with care and love, reflecting God's compassion. The Bible teaches that believers should extend the same kindness they would wish for themselves to those in need, including immigrants. God's instructions highlight the value of empathy and care, demonstrating His love for marginalized individuals. For Christians, this is a call to embody divine compassion in their actions, illustrating a commitment to love and support those who find themselves in challenging circumstances.

Exodus 22:21 (KJV): "Thou shalt neither vex a stranger nor oppress him: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt."

Leviticus 19:34 (KJV): "But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God."

Matthew 25:35 (KJV): "For I was hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in."

Christian teachings encourage believers to show compassion, but they also stress the importance of adhering to the laws of the land. Respect for governing authorities is seen as part of a believer's responsibility. This belief is supported by Scripture, which emphasizes that all authority exists under God's will. Following national laws, including immigration laws, is considered a duty. Jesus' teachings highlight the difference between religious duties and civic responsibilities, guiding Christians to strike a balance between faith-driven compassion and lawful conduct.

Romans 13:1-7 (KJV): "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works but to evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath but also for conscience sake. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render, therefore, to all their dues: a tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor."

A Balanced Approach

Given these scriptures, how should Christians approach illegal immigration?

- **Be Compassionate Within Legal Frameworks:** While believers are called to show compassion, this must be done within the boundaries of the law, which means that Christians should support legal avenues for immigration and advocate for fair and just policies. This balance calls for a subtle approach where Christians actively participate in creating a society that welcomes foreigners with open arms within the bounds of lawfulness.
- **Help Where You Can:** On a personal level, showing kindness and providing help to anyone in need, regardless of their legal status, aligns with Christ's teachings. We have a responsibility to care for our fellow humans. Christians can extend hospitality by volunteering, donating, or supporting organizations that provide aid to refugees and immigrants.
- **Pray for Guidance:** Ultimately, our actions should be guided by prayer and discernment. As Christians, we can seek God's wisdom in navigating these complex issues and strive to act in a way that reflects His love. This practice of seeking divine guidance can provide a sense of comfort and assurance in the face of challenging decisions.
- **Lead with Love:** No matter our personal beliefs or political opinions, Christians are called to treat all individuals with love and respect. This inclusive approach ensures that everyone, regardless of their circumstances, feels valued and respected within the Christian community.

Conclusion

The Christian walk involves living out a complex love that embraces the stranger while also honoring the laws of the land. This balance calls for a nuanced approach where Christians actively participate in creating a society that welcomes foreigners with open arms within the bounds of lawfulness. By doing so, they uphold both divine compassion and civic responsibility, reflecting a holistic Christian witness in the modern debate over immigration. This balanced approach provides reassurance and confidence in the face of complex and often divisive issues.

X Tweets:

- **Exodus 22:21 (KJV):** Thou shalt neither vex a stranger nor oppress him: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. Let's be kind to those who seek refuge and hope. #LoveThyNeighbor #Compassion 😊
- **Leviticus 19:34 (KJV):** But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you; and thou shalt love him as thyself. Embrace everyone with love and kindness! #ChooseLove #Hospitality ❤️
- **Matthew 25:35 (KJV):** For I was hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in. Extend a hand to those in need today. #HelpOthers #ActsOfKindness 😊
- **Romans 13:1 (KJV):** Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Uphold the law while spreading compassion! #LawAndLove #CivicResponsibility ⚖️
- **Romans 13:6-7 (KJV):** For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues. Uphold respect and love for all! #RespectAuthority #LeadWithLove 👮