

Trending

Border Security, Illegal Immigration and the Christian's Response

DR. ED NEWTON

CLARIFYING TRUTH FOR CULTURAL TOPICS

Community Bible Church

Sermon Discussion Questions: Oct 12/13 & 16

Pastor Ed Newton

Title: Border Security, Illegal Immigration and the Christian's Response

Text: "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8

Target: The calling of God on a nation is to uphold justice, extend compassion and ensure security.

I. Bible Framework of Immigration:

- A. **One People Under God:** Tower of Babel and the dispersion of the nations (Genesis 11)
- B. **Boundaries Determine Nations:** "And he made from one man every **nation** of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the **boundaries** of their dwelling place" (Acts 17:26)
- C. **Sojourners/Strangers Become Citizens:** "When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. **You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you**, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God." (Leviticus 19:34)
- D. **Required Submission to the Law:** "But you shall keep my statutes and my rules and do none of these abominations, either the **native or the stranger who sojourns among you**" (Leviticus 18:26)
- E. **Laws Govern FOR the People:** "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." (Romans 13:1)

Question #1: How can we as a community embody the principles of justice and kindness toward immigrants, as outlined in Micah 6:8, while also advocating for national security?

II. See the Immigrant in Immigration:

- A. **Imago Dei:** Every person crossing the border is an image bearer of God (Genesis 1:26-27)
- B. **Seeking Economic Opportunity:** Economic instability, unemployment rates, poverty (Leviticus 25:35)
- C. **Escaping Violence and Crime:** Safety and protection (Zechariah 7:10)
- D. **Political and Religious Persecution or Instability:** Seeking asylum (Deuteronomy 1:16)
- E. **Social Services & Better Life:** American dream (Galatians 2:10)
- F. **Family Reunification:** Reunification of family (1 Peter 2:13-16)

Question #2: In what practical ways can we recognize and honor the dignity of every immigrant as an image bearer of God? How does this influence our attitudes and actions?

Question #3: What specific roles do you believe the church should take in addressing the immigration crisis, both locally and nationally? How can we effectively serve and support immigrant populations in our communities?

III. The Crisis at the Border:

- A. **Safety for Border Agents and Border Towns:** Outnumbered and overrun
- B. **Criminal Activity:** Human smuggling & trafficking, drug trafficking
- C. **Exploitation of the Vulnerable:** Desperate people do desperate things
- D. **Strain on Social Services:** Children services, health care, education, social welfare, FEMA
- E. **Threat to National Security:** Criminal activity, domestic threats
- F. **Community Overcrowding & Employment Shortage:** Causing animosity and disruption

Question #4: How can we balance the need for border security with the call to extend compassion to those seeking a better life? Are there examples from Scripture that guide us in this balance?

Question #5: *How can understanding the reasons why people immigrate—such as fleeing violence or seeking economic opportunity—shape our response as Christians?*

Question #6: *What are some ways we can actively engage with local immigrant communities to support their needs while fostering understanding and unity?*

IV. **Balanced Approach to Immigration:**

- A. Comprehensive Immigration Reform:** Bipartisan effort that makes security the priority of our borders and the interest of all Americans, not at the expense of humanitarian needs.
- B. Empowered Enforcement of Policies:** Hold lawmakers accountable for encouraging and rewarding the breaking of INA policy and allow border officers to enforce the law fully.
- C. Enhanced Border Security:** Increase physical barriers, expand use of technology to cover more territories, increase personnel.
- D. Unify the Mission:** Federal agents, state and local law enforcement must work together to create security.
- E. Asylum Policy Defined, Visa Caps Expanded:** Clarify and streamline the process with pre-arrival documentation, address the backlogs, increase shortage of immigration judges, and create legal assistance for proper documentation.
- F. Family Reunion Credibility Checks:** Children cannot be given over to someone without proper documentation and verification of relation.

Question #7: *Considering the importance of family in God's design, how can we advocate for policies that prioritize family reunification in the immigration process?*

V. **Churches Response to the Immigration Crisis:**

- A. The Great Commission is being fulfilled:** Matthew 28:18-20
- B. Non Profit Ministry Support:** Support or serve within agencies that provide services to immigrants in your community.
- C. Immigration Lawyer Services:** Allow membership to be reconnected with fellow congregants who need assistance.
- D. ESL:** English as a Second Language. (Allows you to share your Faith)
- E. Language Based Community Groups:** Language based groups allow people from different countries to find a piece of home.
- F. Mobilize Evangelicals to Vote:** Hold policy makers who create open borders with the question of why overrun the process at the expense of the American people.

Question #8: *What steps can we take as individuals or as a church to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform that reflects both security needs and humanitarian concerns?*

Question #9: *How can we view the immigration crisis through the lens of the Great Commission? In what ways might immigrants be a part of fulfilling this calling in our communities?*

Takeaway: The border crisis is not just a political issue, it is a Gospel issue.