

Series: Let's Talk About It

Sermon: Immigration

**Passage: various**

Illustration:

Need: The issue of immigration in the United States is complicated but the responsibility of Christians is simple - represent Christ with our love, compassion, & hospitality.

### **I. Biblical facts & principles I've learned regarding immigration.**

- The Bible nowhere mentions anything about US laws and practices on immigration.
- All humans possess the image of God and are, as such, worthy of dignity. (Gen. 1:26-27)
- God ordained national governments to provide order and structure for human populations. (Rom. 13)
- It is the expectation of God-ordained government authorities to punish citizens who break laws within the framework of humane treatment in accordance to the crime. (Rom. 13)
- Scripture doesn't forbid nations from protecting borders or determining who can or cannot enter.
- God's people are instructed and expected to obey the laws of the land unless by doing so one is required to violate God's righteous requirements. (Rom. 13)
- There seems to be a Hebrew differentiation between the words that describe those who classified as "aliens," (lit. *ger*) residents with granted permission, and those who are "foreigners," (lit. *nekhar* or *zar*) no permission granted. *For more, see "The Immigration Crisis" by James Hoffmeier, chapter 2.*
- All of the Biblical patriarchs were resident aliens who obtained permission to dwell in foreign lands. (Gen. 12-Ex. 1)
- The young nation of Israel were welcomed resident aliens in Egypt, but later were subjected to slavery. (Gen. 47-Ex. 1)
- God's moral law required that qualified resident aliens be treated with love, hospitality, and fairness; that they be included in the areas of employment, social benefits, and worship; and forbade Israel from mistreating, oppressing, or cheating them. (Ex. 22:21, 23:9, 12:48-49; Lev. 19:33-34, 18:26, 24:22, 19:9-13, 23:22, 16:19-30; Num. 15:15-16; Deut. 10:19, 24:14-15, 19-22, 26:12-13)
- Sanctuary cities in the OT were not designed to protect people "from the law" but from premature retaliation of the offended party. It provided a safe haven for due process.

### **II. Biblical conclusions that nation states should consider regarding immigration.**

- Every nation is free to protect their citizens/boarders and regulate immigration. However, every person, whether granted or denied entry, is to be treated with worth and dignity.
- Resident aliens are to be treated with clarity, fairness, and inclusion (legally, socially, and religiously).
- Every effort should be used to stop any and every instance of exploitation of both documented and undocumented aliens for the advancement of the bottom line.

### **III. Biblical principles and conclusions that every Christian should consider regarding immigration.**

- God is loving (**Ps. 36:7**), God is compassionate (**Ps. 116:5**), & God is a refuge for the oppressed (**Ps. 9:9**).
- Every Christian is to be marked by love (**Rom. 13:8-10**), compassion (**Col. 3:12**; **Luke 6:36**; **Gal. 6:2**), and hospitality (**Heb. 13:2, 16**; **Gal. 5:13**; **6:10**).
- Every Christian is a citizen of God's kingdom and a resident alien of this world (**Phil. 3:20**; **1 Pet. 2:11**).
- The business of nations is sovereignty and security. The business of Christ is love, compassion, and hospitality. May no Christian's earthly connections speak louder than their eternal one!
- Pray regularly for those who are currently suffering in every facet of the immigration issue.
- Pray that God would give Oasis Church the mind of Christ regarding our role in the issues of immigration.

### **IV. Let's talk about Immigration with alien voices of love, compassion, and hospitality.**