

## **GOOD CITIZENS IN A GREAT COUNTRY**

### **ROMANS 13:1-7**

Today we celebrate the 234<sup>th</sup> birthday of this great nation. On this day in 1776 our nation's leaders signed the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America giving birth to the nation that more than 300 million people call home. It is an honor to be part of a nation of prosperity and freedom. How are we as Christians to be good citizens in this great country?

#### **I. A GREAT COUNTRY.**

##### A. Freedom.

1. Freedom to travel.
2. Freedom to evangelize.
3. Freedom to choose.
4. Freedom to become.

##### B. Prosperity. Deut. 26:9.

##### C. Generosity.

1. Americans gave more than \$300 billion to charities in 2008.
2. 84 million Americans did volunteer work with a monetary value of \$239 billion.
3. Almost \$1 billion in Tsunami relief.
4. Millions in Haiti earthquake relief.

##### D. Beauty.

\* "From the mountains to the prairies, to the oceans white with foam" America is a land of beauty and splendor. \*

#### **II. GOOD CITIZENS.**

##### A. Recognize

1. Government is ordained by God for the good of man. 13:1,2.
2. Government officials are servants of God and of the people they are elected serve. 13:4
3. Government officials protect the people and punish criminals. 13:4.

##### B. Obey – 13:5. 1 Pet. 2:13-15.

\* The only exception is when the laws of human government directly contradict God's laws. Dan. 6; Acts 5:29. \*

C. Support – 13:6.

1. Taxes are payment for government services.
2. The US has one of the lowest personal tax rates of the wealthier nations.

D. Respect – 13:7 .

1. Respect for the God-ordained position the person holds.
2. Respect for the accomplishment of attaining that position.
3. Respect while debating the issues. – Debate but do not demonize.
4. Respect expressed in earnest prayer. 1 Tim. 2:2.

E. Evangelize. 1 Tim. 2:3-7.

- \* The picture presented in 1 Timothy 2 is that there be a good, safe and free environment in which Christians share the gospel and people come to know the Lord. \*

My Christian friends, let's be citizens who will be active, constructive members of our communities. Let's honor the Lord with our actions and attitude in the public arena.