

## “All Men are Created Equal”

Topic – Four Principles of Christian Citizenship

Text – 1 Peter 2:17

**Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859), the great French statesman of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and author of *Democracy in America* wrote:**

“In France I had almost always seen the spirit of religion and the spirit of freedom marching in opposite directions. But in America I found they were intimately united and that they reigned in common over the same country.”

“For the Americans the ideas of Christianity and liberty are so completely mingled that it is almost impossible to get them to conceive of the one without the other.”

“By their practice Americans show that they feel the urgent necessity to instill morality into democracy by means of religion.”

Religion perceives that civil liberty affords a noble exercise to the faculties of man and that the political world is a field prepared by the Creator for the efforts of the mind...Liberty regards religion as its companion in all its battles and its triumphs...It considers religion as the safeguard of morality...”

“I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers – and it was not there . . . in her fertile fields and boundless forests and it was not there . . . in her rich mines and her vast world commerce – and it was not there . . . in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution – and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great.”

From Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Volume 1, Copyright 1945 and renewed 1973 by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., a division of Random House Inc.

### Four mandates that define Christian citizenship.

**1 Peter 2:17** – “Honour all *men*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.”

## I. “\_\_\_\_\_” (1 Peter 2:17a)

1. “Honor” is an action that ascribes worth to an individual by one’s words and actions.
2. The anti-type of “honor” is a failure to esteem.

## II. “Honor \_\_\_\_\_ men...” (1 Peter 2:17a)

### A. We know we are to honor God. (Proverbs 3:9)

### B. We are commanded to “Honor all men”. (2:17a)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ in scope: Honor is due “\_\_\_\_\_”.  
Honor is “\_\_\_\_\_” to race and ethnicity.
2. “Honor” is not without \_\_\_\_\_. (Proverbs 26:1; 1 Cor. 15:33; 2 Timothy 2:20-21; Romans 9:21)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ calls for honor. (Romans 13:7)

### C. While all men are to be honored, some are to be \_\_\_\_\_ honored.

1. Children are to honor their \_\_\_\_\_. (Exodus 20:12; Deut. 5:16; Mark 7:10; Ephesians 6:2-3)
2. Husbands are to honor their \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Peter 3:7a)
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ are to be honored. (1 Timothy 5:3; Leviticus 19:32)
  - a. “Widows \_\_\_\_\_” (1 Timothy 5:3)
  - b. Elderly \_\_\_\_\_ (Leviticus 19:32)
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ are to be honored in the church. (1 Cor. 12:23-25)
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ are no less honorable in God’s sight than the rich. (Job 34:19)
7. Servants/slaves\\_\_\_\_\_ are to honor their employers. (1 Timothy 6:1)
8. \_\_\_\_\_ that “rule well” are to be especially honored. (1 Timothy 5:17-18)