



D U A L
C I T I Z E N S
1 P E T E R

Good Morning Brandywine... today we are back in our study of 1 Peter entitled ***Dual Citizens***.

And if you remember back a few weeks ago when Pastor Nate set this series up, he talked about the fact that Peter's first Epistle is geared towards helping 1 century Christians understand the proper ordering of their citizenship.

Meaning that Peter wanted those who read this letter to come away with an understanding that while YES they were earthly citizens of the increasingly hostile Roman world toward Christianity, that their ultimate citizenship was in the Kingdom of God, not of this world.

And so a significant part of Peter's message here in this epistle is helping Christians maintain a proper focus within this DUAL CITIZENSHIP DYNAMIC.



D U A L
C I T I Z E N S
1 P E T E R

And while 1st Peter was not written to us, it was written for us. And while we are not staring down the face of Roman persecution for our faith (yet), we have our own unique challenges as 21st century Christians Americans concerning how to ensure that we don't lose our focus and allow our **earthly citizenship** to take precedence over our **heavenly citizenship**.

Illus:
You know speaking of dual citizenship, I have a good friend back in Colorado who attended the church I Pastored there, her name is Candie Perkins. Candie grew up as a missionary kid in Chile, in fact she was born there. Her parents were missionaries with ABWE and she lived in Chile till she was a pre-teen, and then her family moved to Colorado where her Dad became a seminary professor. It was in Colorado that she met her husband John and they raised their 3 children and 6 grandchildren.



And because Candie was born in Chile but her parents were both American Citizens, Candie is what we call a ***dual citizen..... or so she thought.***

Here's what happened, about 4 years ago Candie went to the DMV to get her license renewed. What she thought was going to be a routine trip to the DMV turned out to be a ***nightmare.***

The person at the DMV asked her for proof of citizenship, which she thought was weird because she had never been asked for that before simply to renew her license. The man told her that due to new regulations at the ***Department of Home Land Security*** they were tightening up requirements for the issuing of all official government documents.



DUAL
CITIZENS
1 PETER

He went on to explain that her name had been flagged as a **potential illegal alien**, and therefore in order to get a new license she needed to prove she was a citizen.

The problem was all she had to identify her citizenship was her birth certificate from Chile, incidentally she had never tried to get an American passport as an adult/she hadn't left the country since she was a child.

And so my friend, this is a white woman from suburban Colorado, is all of a sudden finding out that instead of possessing dual citizenship, that instead she was an **illegal alien** in the eyes of the law.



Now, for months Candie was deeply troubled by this, she actually feared getting deported back to Chile.....(no joke) Candie and her husband actually looked into the possibility of purchasing some beach front property in Chile and making the best of it.

But, during their investigation of what was going on it was discovered that when Candie and her family moved back to America from Chile, the missions organization failed to properly fill out her re-entry documents.


You see since Candie was the only member of her family born in Chile (and not the U.S.) when her family came back to America, there were some additional documents that needed to be filled out in order for Candie to be a actual citizen.



Now fortunately the story does have a happy ending.

Candie did not get deported.

But she did have to prove to the U.S. Govt that her (now deceased) parents were citizens, and then she also had to prove that they were indeed her parents, and then after 4 decades of living here as an illegal alien, Candie became an official U.S. citizen.



D U A L
C I T I Z E N S
1 P E T E R

And church the reason why I tell that story is because Candie thought that her citizenship was solid, she thought that she comfortably belonged to both countries and she lived as if this was so.... but little did she know that due to a lack of focus in the missions office she almost lost her American citizenship.... which was vastly more important to her.

And church I would caution us that while no one can lose their salvation, **what we can lose** is our ability to function as the **effective dual citizens** our Heavenly Father intents us to be in the world.

You see if we lose our focus here, we will elevate the temporal over the eternal, we will magnify the earthly over the heavenly.



In part Peter wrote this Epistle to help us know how to live **HERE IN OUR EARTHLY HOME**, while at the same time never losing sight of the fact that we were **BORN HERE INTO A LIVING HOPE**.

Two weeks ago Pastor Nate examined this very idea, Peter's exhortation concerning the fact that we "Christians" are born as dual citizens... of this ***physical Earth*** but ***also the Living Hope of Heaven***.

And as we continue on this morning in 1 Peter chapter 1 starting in verse 13... we are going to see Peter issue a ***CALL TO ACTION***.

The Apostle is going to explain how our status as **CITIZENS of HEAVEN** should then impact our **EARTHLY CITIZENSHIP**... this is a treatise on how we should act/conduct ourselves in light of our position as **DUAL CITIZENS**.

I Peter 1:13 (ESV)

13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

In verse 13 we Read:

Here we see the first step has to do with our minds, our thinking. We are told here to prepare our minds, to sober our minds.

Some translations use the phrase “gird up your mind,” back in this time people didn’t wear pants, they dressed in robes, and when you needed to move swiftly in order to not trip over your robe you would “gird up your loins,” you would tie a belt around your waist lift up your loins/robe so that you could MOVE QUICKLY WITHOUT FALLING.

Peter casts the mental image here of us carrying out the same practice but IN OUR MINDS..... PREPARING OUR MINDS FOR ACTION....BEING SOBER MINDED....READY.

I Peter 1:13 (ESV)

13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Ready for what? What are we preparing our minds for?

Peter says we are readying our minds to set **OUR HOPE ON THE GRACE THAT WILL BE BROUGHT AT THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST.**

In other words we need to prepare our minds to be fixed on the **GOAL OF GOD'S ULTIMATE GRACE IN OUR LIVES.**

Peter knows that the individuals who are reading this letter will soon face persecution... he knows that their faith will be tested, and so His reminder is that instead of looking at external circumstances which might frighten them, instead they should prepare and sober their minds on the **ULTIMATE GOAL OF CHRIST'S GLORIOUS REDEMPTION.**

I Peter 1:13 (ESV)

13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

You see church, we often have to prepare our minds for things don't we....often we need to 'gird our minds' and prepare for what's coming. Especially if it is challenging, especially if we are afraid?

Illus: You know, since moving into our house a year and a half ago, we have discovered that a family of mice has taken up residence in our attic. And for the past 6 month I have been waging a personal war against these evil vermin.

Now this isn't that big of a deal, but the problem is that I have a phobia of mice. I know it's a phobia because it's a very irrational fear.



Do You Have **MUSOPHOBIA?**

Perhaps you share this phobia with me the technical term is (MUSOPHOBIA). Now, if a mouse is alive, I'm pretty much fine, I'm not too creeped out by the live ones.

But dead mice, eeewww!! I have an intense irrational fear of dead mice. Usually when I catch one in our attic it's on a snap trap and I quickly pick it up and throw it away. But last weekend when I went to check in the attic, I saw the trap was sprung, and there was a dead mouse next to the trap. I have no idea how it died NEXT TO THE TRAP but WHATEVER.

The problem was that since it wasn't on the trap. I was going to have to PICK UP THE DEAD MOUSE WITH MY HAND, AND FEEL ITS COLD LIFELESS BODY. So I am standing there in my attic for about 30 mins looking at this mouse, no one else is home to help me. And I'm having a counseling session with myself about how unbelievable it is that I'm afraid to pick up this mouse.



Do You Have
MUSOPHOBIA?

And so you know what I did? *I prepared my mind for action! I girded up my mind! I got sober minded and I came up with a plan.* I realized that I didn't have to pick it up with my hands, I went into the kitchen, grabbed my wife's salad tongs, and I scooped that baby up and went on with my day!

Now everyone here is going pass on the salad if you ever come over for dinner at the Johnson's. 😊

You see church my fear of mice, as irrational as it is caused me freeze..... I wasn't sober minded, I didn't gird my mind, I wasn't looking at the goal of a mouse free attic, I was consumed with my fear.



And church similarly Peter doesn't want these early church Christians consumed with fear.....he wants them to look at the GOAL.

Because he knows that persecution is coming, he prescribes here tough-minded holiness that is ready for action.

And in verse 14 he begins to describe what this tough-minded holiness practically looks like in the believers life.

1 Peter 1:14-17 (ESV)

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” ¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,

Read:

There are so many things to unpack in this verse but I want to just focus on a couple of things.

First, Peter talks about us no longer allowing ourselves to be controlled/conformed by our passions and former ignorance.

The Greek verb used here that communicates this idea (*literally*) means to be free from every form of mental and ***spiritual drunkenness***.

While all of us know all too well about physical drunkenness and what that brings. We don't often talk about mental/spiritual drunkenness.

1 Peter 1:14-17 (ESV)

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” ¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,

Mental/Spiritual drunkenness happen when we are being controlled by worldly influences and circumstances, rather than being directed from within by the Spirit of the Living God.

When we are spiritually drunk we no longer look like the citizens who will inherit the kingdom of God, when we are spiritually drunk we simply look like everyone else who is without Christ and without hope.

Have you ever had a situation happen when someone is rude to you, or condescending, perhaps someone has ripped you off..... only to find out later that the perpetrator is a Christian. I think some of us can resonate with such an experience (perhaps we have been the offender ourselves), you see when we live in these ways its an exhibition in spiritual drunkenness.

1 Peter 1:14-17 (ESV)

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” ¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,

You see we stain our reputation as Dual Citizens of Heaven and Earth when allow ourselves to be controlled/conformed by this sin sick world... **and also** when we fail to break out of the mold of our former lives and **live as the redeemed**.

You see church we can often make the mistake of elevating the things of this world above the things of God. And when this happens it's usually because we are elevating the created things of this world instead of elevating the creator.

As an example of this, we can often find it hard to give freely of our resources, when we have this struggle it's because we are primarily thinking of our earthly citizenship and how we need this and that and how we can't afford to give our resources away because what if we need them etc. etc. etc.

1 Peter 1:14-17 (ESV)

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” ¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,

You see when we fail to give freely to those whom God has placed on our path, we reveal which citizenship is taking priority.

Another example of this is forgiveness. We often find it hard to forgive... in fact we often like holding grudges, we like keeping a record of wrongs.

It feels good when we can hold something against an enemy, and feel as though we are owed a debt.

The only problem with this is that Christians are excluded from this type of thinking. Jesus instructs His followers to forgive not once or twice or even 3 times, in Matthew 18 Jesus says forgive 70x7, meaning our forgiveness should be endless.

1 Peter 1:14-17 (ESV)

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” ¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,

But we often fail to live this way because we have elevated the things of man above the things of God. We have exchanged the redeemed life for the ordinary.

And so, how do the redeemed live? Peter makes it clear in verse 16 when he reminds us of God's words to His people in Leviticus, ***“You shall be holy, for I am holy.”***

Church as Dual Citizens of Heaven and Earth we are to pursue the Holiness of God in our lives...this is an integral part of what it means to be a Christian... the passionate pursuit of Christlikeness.



Now, to some of us the pursuit of God's holiness in our lives seems like an overwhelming task. Am I right?

We can feel like it's a destination we will never reach, a mountain too high to climb, so why try?

Illus:
You know there is a story I love that relates to this about a man named Pablo Casals. Pablo is widely regarded as the greatest cellist to have ever lived. And when he was 95 years old, he was asked why he continued to practice for 6 hours every day, why still try to get better? Why with Arthritis, and his bad eye sight, did he persist in trying perfect his craft as a cellist, He answered simply... "Because I think I'm making progress."

If I ever get to be 95! I hope and pray I think like Pablo.



DUAL
CITIZENS
1 PETER

You see Pablo even with his bad hands and bad eyes persisted to **PERFECT** SOMETHING OTHERS BELIEVED HE HAD MASTERED.....BECAUSE HE KNEW THAT THERE WAS SO MUCH MORE TO LEARN.

But there is also something else....clearly Pablo loved the Cello.....he was committed to it, devoted to the craft.....and so those 6 hours each day didn't seem like work to him at all.....they seemed like bliss.

And you see church as we fall deeper and deeper in love with Christ, we will not find the pursuit of HOLINESS DAUNTING AT ALL. Rather we will long to be obedient children who pursue holiness in our lives.....we will long to stake-claim of the set-apart lives Christ died to make possible.

I Peter 1:18-21 (ESV)

¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

And speaking of Christ's sacrifice Peter transitions in verse 18, from talking about **WHAT** holy living looks like to now focusing on **WHY** we as Dual Citizens should pursue holiness, and his reasoning is tied directly to the sacrifice of Christ.

Read: 

²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Continue Reading:

I Peter 1:18-21 (ESV)

¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

In verse 18 we clearly see that our spiritual inheritance at birth was DEATH/FUTILITY. It says here we were ransomed, a ransom is *a sum of money or other payment demanded or paid for the release of a prisoner.*

We were prisoners of death, ransomed by Christ, he paid our release. Peter takes time to mention that Christ's status wasn't trifling or trivial, but rather He was the only spotless lamb of God... ..*his value? priceless.*

Church, imagine with me for a moment that a King sends word to his son The Prince... and the King says, "I want you to go to a foreign land, there are people there who are dying, I want you to give your life in exchange for theirs, so that they can inherit what is rightfully yours."

I Peter 1:18-21 (ESV)

¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

I imagine that most Princes would not take the King up on that kind of offer.

But the Power/Beauty of this Gospel is that JESUS DID take up that offer.

And because he did we are offered REDEMPTION in His name.

In other words, its not just that we were sprung from jail, pardoned and set free..... but also that the one who took our burden from us and bore it himself was blameless.

Peter highlights this truth so that we know the stakes. You see church if we clearly see that our status as DUAL CITIZENS wasn't achieved trivially, we will be more prone to honor it.

I Peter 1:18-21 (ESV)

¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

This is why (with all the things we cannot agree on as Americans, the one things we can agree on is the need to honor Veteran's those who have paid the highest price for our freedom). We recognize in our culture that those who sacrifice themselves are worthy of honor.

Everybody whether Republican or Democrat agrees with honoring Veteran's of Wars we might not have even have agreed with, because we know the stakes are high for our service men and women and therefore we go to great lengths not to denigrate their service.

Well similarly Peter wants us to recognize that Jesus paid the highest price for OUR CITIZENSHIP. And that a true understanding of this might strengthen our resolve to HONOR AND FOLLOW HIM. **[PAUSE]**

²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Back in our last two verses for this morning, verses 20 and 21, Peter highlights the fact that this redemption he is speaking of was no afterthought, but instead it was foreknown before time itself. ***Think about that***, before the world came into being God purposed that Christ would die as a ransom for many.

Peter goes on to highlight in verse 20 that Jesus was made manifest in the last times FOR OUR SAKE that through Him [Christ] our FAITH and our HOPE might be in GOD, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory.

Meaning, that as a result of God's eternal plan and unmatched payment for sin, we are afforded the opportunity to be NEW CITIZENS of HEAVEN, CITIZENS WHO PLACE THEIR FAITH AND HOPE IN GOD.



And so remember. The purpose of this study is for us to examine the Dual aspects of our lives here on Earth. Because in a very real way, we Christians are Citizens of Earth and Heaven at the same time.

Peter knew this and so in part what we studied this morning is designed to help us think through how to balance out our citizenship.

As we begin to wind down this morning I want to give some really practical application that you can take with you this week.

And so, if you had to break 1 Peter 1:13-21 down into a ***Dual Citizenship Checklist*** helping us identify the do's and don'ts of good citizenship. It would go a little something like this.

Dual Citizenship Checklist

(1 Peter 1:13-21)

~~Do not become spiritually drunk~~

Sober mindedly follow Christ

~~Do not be conformed to the patterns of this world~~

Be conformed to the holiness of Christ

~~Do not live as though your ransom was trivial~~

Live as though you were ransomed by Christ

~~Do not place your faith and hope in man~~


Place your faith and hope in God who saved you

Do not become spiritually drunk, instead ***sober mindedly follow Christ.***

Do not be conformed to the patterns of this world, instead allow yourself to ***be conformed to the holiness of Christ.***

Do not live as though your ransom was trivial, rather ***live as though you were ransomed by Christ (the spotless lamb of God).***

Do not place your faith and hope in the things of man, instead ***place your faith and hope in the God who has saved you.***



DUAL
CITIZENS
1 PETER

Often we end up depressed and beat down in life because we have placed our FAITH and HOPE in temporary things. Possessions, Occupations, other sinful people who will let us down. And when the temporary things in our lives either die, break, get lost, or hurt us etc. We feel empty, lost... we are miserable.

Peter's ultimate solution in our passage this morning is for us to place our FAITH and our HOPE in God alone.

Because God doesn't die, break, he never gets lost and he cannot hurt those who place their trust in him.... better yet when we are empty he will fill us, when we are lost he will find us... when we find misery he will comfort us... he will do that work in us and through us church, and all we need to do is **SURRENDER TO HIM.**



I love testimonies... especailly ones where God takes a life and so radically transforms a person that they become a living miracle, this woman has a mighty powerful testimony of how God drew her into His SURRENDER.

This is Joni Eareckson Tada, she is an Author, Artist, Singer, Radio personality, an advocate for the disabled, and she has also been a Quadriplegic for close to 50 years. Joni doesn't have the use of her arms or legs.

She was in a diving accident the summer before college....this diving accident crushed her C4&C5 vertibre severing her spinal cord.



In an interview Joni reflected on the event that changed her life.....the event that forced her to decide whether she was willing **to pay the price of following Jesus**. And she started by recounting that **(before the accident)** as a 14-year-old, she had embraced Jesus as her savior, but in her words she had **"confused the abundant Christian life with the great American dream."** Joni said: **[quote]**

"I was a Christian and would lose weight, get good grades, get voted captain of the hockey team, go to college, marry a wonderful man who made \$250,000 a year, and we'd have 2.5 children. It was me focused: What can God do for me? I almost thought that I had done God a great big favor by accepting Jesus"



She continues.... "In April 1967, I came home from a sordid Friday night date with my boyfriend ... and cried, "Oh God ... I'm staining your reputation by saying I'm a Christian, yet doing one thing Friday night and another Sunday morning.

I'm a hypocrite I want you to change my life ... Please do something in my life that will jerk it right side up because I'm making a mess of the Christian faith in my life and I don't want that. I want to glorify you." Then I had the diving accident about three months later.

Immediately after the accident, Joni told God, "You'll never be trusted with another one of my prayers." 😊



After the accident, while struggling with depression and anger... **GRIPPED WITH FEAR of the future**, Joni while lying in her hospital bed whipped her neck back and forth trying to snap her neck in order to end it all.

In the grief of that moment Joni cried out to God, 'Oh God, if I can't die, show me how to live.'

And in that moment, God came into Joni's life, and Joni exchanged her **FEAR of the future for the HOPE FOUND IN CHRIST.**

And now her life is dedicated to **REACHING** PEOPLE WITH THE SAME HOPE SHE HAS FOUND . Joni Eareckson Tada is a gleaming example of what it means to place your FAITH AND HOPE SQUARELY ON GOD.

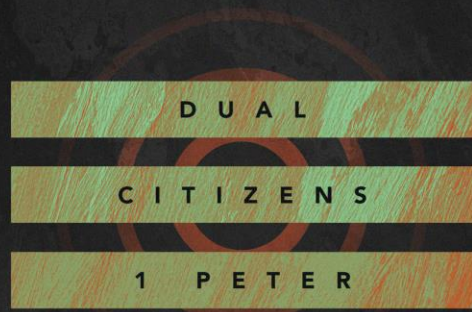


DUAL
CITIZENS
1 PETER

And it was all predicated upon that prayer of surrender as she laid in that hospital bed... ..**God if I can't die, please show me how to live...**and while she cannot walk or even brush her teeth, no doubt Joni is far more **alive** than most able bodied people. [*Pause*]

Now every single one of us in here this morning is living....**at least I hope my preaching hasn't killed anyone this morning 😊**....but we are ALIVE....and the question that confronts us from I Peter this morning is, “HOW WILL WE LIVE....BECAUSE YOUR LIFE IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW?”

My prayer is that we will live as Christian American's with our priorities in the correct order.



Living in such a way that ***our faith impacts our culture and not the other way around***, and as we live in those ways as Christian American Citizen's we proclaim with our lives that our FAITH and our HOPE IS IN GOD ALONE.

Pray: Offering