

LOVE THIS LAND

Various Passages
6.28.2026
Brian Lightsey

What is a Christian perspective on patriotism?

Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith...and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. (NKJV)

1 Peter 2:12 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul. (NKJV)

Philippians 3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven... (NIV)

Can pilgrims of heaven live as patriots on earth?

As a Christian:

▪ **I realize that God created the nations, so he values them, including mine.**

Acts 17:26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him... (NIV)

▪ **It is good and healthy for me to love my home and country.**

The Four Loves by C.S. Lewis (Four Greek Words of Love)

- 1) *Agape* – God Love
- 2) *Philia* – Friend Love
- 3) *Eros* – Romantic Love
- 4) *Storge* – Familiarity Love
(love of home, people, place, nation, history, culture)

Psalms 16:6 The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. (NIV)

Psalms 137:1 By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.... 4 How can we sing the songs of the LORD while in a foreign land? 5 If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill. 6 May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not consider Jerusalem... (NIV)

Patriotism = Devotion

Nationalism = Dominance

Hatred History

Overemphasizes the bad things of America and overlooks the good.

Demonizes America

America can do no good.

Offended if people talk about the good.

Falsehood over Truth

Unpatriotic and knows it.

Heritage History

Overemphasizes the good things of America and overlooks the bad.

Idolizes America

America can do no bad.

Offended if people talk about the bad.

Falsehood over Truth

Unpatriotic and does not know it. (Nationalistic)

How to Love My Country

▪ **I seek the peace and prosperity of my country.**

Jeremiah 29:7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." (NIV) (Rom. 13:1-1 Tim. 2:1-3)

▪ **I strive to live a righteous life.**

Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people. (NIV)

▪ **I address my nation's sins.**

Confess, lament, and correct national sins. (Dan. 9:3-19: Neh. 1:4-11)

▪ **I place my ultimate allegiance in Christ, not Caesar.**

1 Peter 2:17 Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor. (NIV)

Mark 12:17 Then Jesus said to them, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." (NIV)

Healthy patriotism becomes unhealthy nationalism when it becomes idolatry.

▪ **I give the Gospel to America and all nations.**

Matthew 28:19 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..." (NIV)