

INTRODUCTION: LOVE IMMIGRANTS (Lev.19:34(18); Dt.10:18,19; Mt.22:39; Lk.6:27,35)

I. PRINCIPLES & DEFINITIONS FOR APPLICATION

A. NATIONS AND THEIR BORDERS ARE GOD-GIVEN (Acts 17:26; Dt.32:8; see Dt.19:14; 27:17; Prov.22:28; 23:10; Hos.5:10; see Josh.9; Ezk.48; note: national forts; city gates)

B. NATIONS HAVE THE RIGHT TO ADMIT/REJECT VISITORS & SET TERMS (Gen.2:8f; 3:24; 12:19f; 41:40; see Mal.2:11; Ezra, Neh.; see Jn.10:5; 1Cor.5:13; e.g., guests in your home)

C. GUESTS HAVE DUTY TO SEEK PERMISSION TO ENTER (Gen.45:16f /43:32; 46:34; eg, knock, doorbell)

D. TWO KINDS OF IMMIGRANT

1. *legal*: *accepted, accepting; affectionate, assimilating* (Gen.23:4; Lev.25:23 /alien, stranger; sojourner; Ruth 1:16)

2. *illegal*: *not accepted, not accepting; isolated, hostile* (Is.1:7; Jer.5:19; Lam.5:2 /foreigner; e.g., “foreign gods”)

E. NATURE: HUMAN RIGHTS TO ALL IMMIGRANTS (Gen.1:26; 9:6; Eph.4:24 /Ex.20:12-17; Mt.22:39; Lk.6:27f)

F. RELATIONSHIP: CIVIL RIGHTS TO LEGAL IMMIGRANTS (see Dt.8:18; Dt.14:29)

1. *justice*: *substantial legal protections* (laws, refuge; Num15:15,16,29; 35:15; Dt.1:16; 24:14; Jer7:6 /Jms5:4)

2. *mercy*: *substantial social provisions* (sabbaths, feasts, gleaning, first fruits, triennial tithe; Dt.5:14; 16:11,14; 24:19f; 26:2f,12f; see Jms.1:27)

G. RELIGIOUS DUTIES & OPPORTUNITIES (Ex.0:1f; Lev20:2 /Ex12:19,48; Num15:14,26; 1K8:41 /Acts 15:20,29)

H. CITIZENS HAVE THE DUTY TO LOVE ALL IMMIGRANTS & TO CARE FOR THE LEGAL IMMIGRANT DILIGENTLY (Gen.9:6; Lk.6:27,35 (eg, legal help) & Lev.19:34(18); Dt.10:18,19; Ps.146:9 /Gal.6:10)

I. CONFESS AND APPLY THESE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES & DEFINITIONS

II. MOTIVE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

A. WE WERE IMMIGRANTS, THEREFORE WE MUST LOVE IMMIGRANTS (Lev.19:34; Dt.10:19; Ps.39:12; see Eph.2:11f)

1. *born citizens* (Gen.1:26; 2:8f)

2. *deported in justice* (Gen.3:24; see 4:12f; see 2Chr.36:16)

3. *restored in grace* (Heb.10:19f; 9:12f,24; see Rev.2:7; 22:2f)

4. *praise God for our homecoming in Christ!* (see Heb.10:22f; 12:22f; see Eph.2:11f)

5. *love stranger because we loved when strangers* (Lev.19:34(18); Dt.10:18,19; Rom.5:1f; Eph.2:1f, 11f)

B. WE ARE IMMIGRANTS, THEREFORE WE MUST LOVE IMMIGRANTS

1. *at peace with God* (Rom.5:1; Eph.2:1f,5f; see 2Cor.5:21)

2. *citizenship in heaven* (Eph.2:19; Phil.3:20; see Heb.12:22)

3. *therefore, aliens & strangers on earth* (1Pt.1:1; 2:11,12; see Heb.11:9f; see Jn.15:18,19; 1Jn.3:13)

4. *pray courage faithful aliens in foreign land* (1Pt.2:11,12; 3:13-17 /Jer.29:4f; Rm13:1f; 1Pt2:11f,13f; 1Tm2:1f)

5. *love stranger because we loved when strangers* (Lev.19:34(18); Dt.10:18,19; Rom.5:1f; Eph.2:1f, 11f)

CONCLUSION: LOVE IMMIGRANTS (Lev.19:34(18); Dt.10:18,19; Mt.22:39; Lk.6:27,35)

Discussion question:

Brethren, what shall we do? (see Acts 2:37f)