

Social Obligation

It should be our objective to fulfil our obligations to society being good citizens, by correcting social injustices, and by protecting the sanctity of life.

A. Being Good Citizens: As Christians we are members of the kingdom of God as well as a social order of this world.

1. Obedience to God requires us to act in a responsible manner as citizens of our country (Mark 12:13-17; Romans 13:1-7; 1Peter 2:13-17). Therefore, we should support civil law and order, hold our leaders in respect and pray for them; and speaks out on clear-cut moral issues.

2. When it becomes necessary to disagree with practices and requirements of government, we should do so out of a concern for the promotion of righteousness and not out of delight in discord and controversy.

3. God's law is supreme, we are to obey the laws of our country if they are not in conflict with the word of God (Acts 5:29, Acts 4:18-20, John 15: 18-21, John 16:1-4, Mathew 10:17-20). We need to continue to evangelize and keep our commitment to the LORD to reach the lost inspite of opposition or persecution.

4. Praying for the country that you are in (1Timothy 2:1-7; Jeremiah 29:7).

B. Correcting Social Injustices:

1. Love for others and the recognition of the equal worth of all people in the sight of God (Acts 10:34) should compel us to take steps to improve the situation of those who are underprivileged, neglected, hungry, homeless, and victimized by prejudice, persecution, and oppression (Mathew 22: 39; Matthew 25: 34-40; Romans 13:8-10; 1 John 3:17-18).

2. In all of our dealings, we must be sensitive to human needs (Luke 10:30-37) and guard against racial and economic discrimination.

3. Every person should have freedom to worship and participate in the life of the church regardless of race, colour, sex, social class, or nationality.

C. Protecting the Sanctity of Life:

1. God alone gives life (Genesis 1:1-31); therefore, we are responsible to God to care for our physical life and that of others. If the circumstances require, we must be prepared to risk our life in the service of our neighbour (John 15:13); but the general rule is that we must respect our physical life and employ every worthy means to maintain it.

2. Since God alone confers life, God alone must decide when it is to be ended (Psalm 31:14, 15).

3. Because a human foetus is sacred and blessed by God, we believe we have the responsibility to protect the life of the unborn (Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:41).

4. It is our firm conviction that abortion, and euthanasia (merciful death) of the aged, mentally incompetent, terminally ill, and otherwise handicapped, for reasons of personal convenience, social adjustment, or economic advantage, are morally wrong.

5. Furthermore, we believe it is our Christian responsibility to care for the earth and its resources. In the beginning God gave man dominion over the earth (Genesis 1:26-30). This does not, however, give us license to pollute our natural environment or to waste the resources of the earth.