Citizenship, A Privilege, Not A Right
Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

Citizenship in today’s political climate can be a very controversial subject. However, I believe with all of my heart that Citizenship is a privilege and not a right. When you consider it as a privilege, you will cherish it and never take it for granted. If it is a right then it will be something that we will demand and at times, take it for granted.

To be granted the privilege of U.S. Citizenship is truly a great privilege. I don’t believe that the U.S. is a perfect nation. In fact, it is far from being perfect. However, I do believe that it is the greatest nation in the world. You can determine that by just taking a look at how many people try to make their way into the U.S. through illegal immigration. I don’t hear of anyone trying to break into North Korea, Iran, China, or Russia. Why would so many people be trying to get into the U.S., even illegally, if the U.S. was such a bad country?

While the U.S. is far from being a perfect country, it is the best country to live in the whole world. We are very privileged to be able to live in the U.S. However, we are witnessing those who hate the U.S. trying to destroy it. We are witnessing them trying to destroy it by causing division and strife in as many sectors of our community as possible. Things that are sacred have been demonized. Things that were cherished freedom needs to be fought for, but not with the weapons of this world. The weapons of this citizenship are the weapons that Jesus used and demonstrated as He walked this world. These weapons are love, grace, and mercy. These weapons are confounding to the peoples of the world but the strength and beauty of these weapons are what convicts and compels them to seek for this citizenship in Heaven.

This citizenship is not a “right” that can be demanded because if you honestly look at it, there is not a single person who deserves this privilege. It is only through the love, grace, and mercy of the Lord that we can ever hope to gain this citizenship. The sins in our lives are so evil and despicable that no one on earth is good enough to be a citizen of Heaven. It is only because of God’s love and grace for us that He made us worthy of this citizenship. For while we were still sinners, God’s love and grace for us compelled Him to send His one and only Son to earth as a living sacrifice who also sacrificed His life to give us the opportunity to respond to His love by loving Him with all of our heart, mind, and soul and therefore receive this citizenship in Heaven. You see, we can love Him supremely because He first loved us supremely. His love and grace are truly amazing.

The only citizenship requirement is that one has to respond to God’s love and grace by returning His love with all of your heart, mind, and soul. This kind of love humbles you so the concepts and philosophies of “rights” and “entitlements” become void and foreign to the Citizens of Heaven. This humility leads the citizens of Heaven to treasure the privilege that has been granted to them. These citizens fall so deeply in love with their Lord, Jesus Christ, that they begin to be transformed into a follower and disciple of Jesus. Their motives are empowered by their love for Jesus and not because of an...
obligation to Him. Although they do owe much to the Lord for His supreme sacrifice for them, they are motivated by love. The thoughts of obligation seem to disappear because an attitude and lifestyle of love and commitment to Jesus Christ becomes the distinguishing mark of the citizens of Heaven.

In closing, the Lord reminded all of us in Revelations 2 & 3, in the seven letters to the churches, that the ones who remain faithful to the end are the ones who are secure. Therefore, citizens of Heaven should not and cannot grow weary in doing good and loving Him supremely. When challenge and distress buffets us, look to Jesus and love Him for who He is. God bless all of you as you seek to love and adore Jesus Christ, the Lord of lords.

SURF’S UP!
BACK TO SCHOOL SURF DAY
SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2015
8 AM TO 2 PM
KANAHAI BEACH (LEFT OF LIFEGUARD TOWER)
SURFBOARDS PROVIDED
IF YOU’D LIKE, BRING SOMETHING TO GRILL
SOME REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED
ADULTS WILLING TO HELP, CONTACT
DARYL QUENGA 357-4694

Donations Needed
For Family Movie Night Outreach
Donations needed by Sunday, July 26

For more information contact
Clarice Kaneshiro (463-9981) or the church office (244-0865)
What’s My Motivation, Sir?

Pastor Jeremy Kaneshiro

How do you train yourself to say, "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives? What motivates your effort? What empowers your sanctification? Think about it, what empowers you to live the Christian life day to day?

Timothy Keller, in his book "Center Church" said this: “Think for a moment of all the ways you can say no to ungodly behavior. You can say “No-because I’ll look bad. No-because I’ll be excluded from the social circles I want to belong to. No, because then God will not give me health, wealth, and happiness. No-because God will send me to hell. No-because I’ll hate myself in the morning and lose my self-respect.”  Virtually all of these incentives use self-centered impulses of the heart to force compliance to external rules, but they do very little to change the heart itself. The motive behind them is not love for God. It is a way of using God to get beneficial things, self-esteem, prosperity, or social approval.”

Look at what Paul says in Titus 2:11-14 (ESV)

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Look at verse 11-12 where Paul says “for the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age…”

What did Paul say was training “us” for a godly life? Paul states that it is the “grace of God…bringing salvation for all people…” that is training us to renounce ungodliness and world passions. Well, what does that mean? In Titus 3:4-7 Paul states “But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life” So, this “grace” that Paul mentions in Titus 2:11 is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

So, the thing that will teach Christians towards godliness, to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives is the gospel. There is no other way. But, this way of doing things seems vague and hard to understand to many Christians because it is not how we have been trained. And, If we are honest, most of our motivation is rooted in the self-centered impulses that Pastor Tim Keller had mentioned because that kind of motivation is our default motivation. So, many Christians (myself included) are unfamiliar with the proper motivation of the Christian life because our natural impulse is to use selfish motivations and we have not been taught properly. But what Paul is getting at is that if we want true heart and life change, you must let the gospel teach you.

The meaning for the Greek word for training in verse 12: is to provide instruction, with the intent of forming proper habits of behavior—to teach, to instruct, to train, teaching, instruction. So, what Paul is saying is that this doesn’t come easy. The gospel training us is NOT like the movie “the Matrix” where Neo could download how to be a martial artist instantly. It is not easily learned but something that must be taught like an athlete training their body for competition. The gospel is to instruct, discipline, train and coach us over a period of time (our lifetime!). We must let the gospel argue with us and sink deeply until it changes our views as well as the base motivations we have become too familiar with. The gospel does this by confronting the impulses of our sinful human heart.

So, there is hard work that is involved in Christian growth that begins not at the “doing” level but the “heart” level. I think other people have explained it better so I will let Pastor Tim Keller explain in “Center Church”:

“The gospel, if it is truly believed, helps us out of the extreme neediness that is natural to the human heart. We have the need to constantly respected, to be appreciated, and to be highly regarded. We need to control our lives—not trusting God or anyone else with them. We need to have power over others in order to boost our self-esteem. The image of our glorious God delighting over us with all his being (Isa. 62:4, Zep. 3:14, Deut. 23:5, 30:9)—if this is a mere concept to us, then our needs will overwhelm us and drive our behavior. Without the power of the Spirit, our hearts don’t really believe in God’s delight or grace, so they operate in their default mode. But the truths of the gospel, brought home by the Spirit, slowly but surely helps us grasp in a new way how safe and secure, how loved and accepted, we are in Christ. Through the gospel, we have come to base our identity not on what we have achieved but on what has been achieved for us in Christ.”

"the grace of God...bringing salvation for all people..." that is training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in the present age..."
Dear Church family: We have an opportunity to reach out to our family, neighbors, and friends with small children and invite them to a special movie night. We all know families who could use encouragement and fellowship. Here’s a chance to share the love of Jesus and the truth of Isaiah 30:21. So bring your kids! Bring your nieces and nephews! Bring your neighbors! Pick-up invitations from the back table to give out. What a great way to connect with our neighbors and family who may not know just how much God loves them.

Saturday, August 1, 2015
6:30-8:00 PM
WAILUKU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Valley Isle Fellowship Sunday School
Presents:

A Summer Outreach Event!
“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”
Colossians 4:2 (ESV)

Here are opportunities to gather together in prayer

**Sundays 6am**
(Pastor Jeremy’s Office)

**Mondays 10 am & 6:30 pm**
(High St Sanctuary)

Gather together to pray for God to move within ourselves, our church, community, nation and world. Please join us for these very powerful times with the Lord and our brothers and sisters.

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**HIGH STREET CLEANING SCHEDULE**

**Week of July 16-18**
Aikala Ohana

**Week of July 23-25**
Reimann, Edwards, Kaneshiro

**Week of July 30-Aug 1**
Volunteers Needed

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Please pray for Destin Olaso and his team completing their mission service term in Slovakia with NavMissions and heading back to the USA this week.

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**Sundays Schedule**

- **6:00 am**
  - Prayer Meeting
  - (Pastor Jeremy’s Office)

- **7:00 am**
  - Set-up

- **9:00 am**
  - Worship Service
  - (no childcare)

- **10:30 am**
  - Sunday School
  - (High St Property)

- **6:00 pm**
  - Evening Service
  - (High St Property)
### July 2015

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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| 12   | 6 am - Prayer Time (Pastor Jeremy’s Office)  
9 am - Pastor Darren  
10:30 am - Sunday School at High St Property  
12 noon Trustees Meeting  
6 pm - Pastor Jeremy |
| 13   | 10 am - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary  
6:30 pm - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary |
| 15   | 6:30 pm - Youth Group “Fuel” @ Sanctuary |
| 19   | 6 am - Prayer Time (Pastor Jeremy’s Office)  
9 am - Pastor Darren  
10:30 am - Sunday School at High St Property  
6 pm - Pastor Stephen |
| 20   | 10 am - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary  
6:30 pm - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary |
| 22   | 6:30 pm - Youth Group “Fuel” @ Sanctuary |
| 26   | 6 am - Prayer Time (Pastor Jeremy’s Office)  
9 am - Stephen  
10:30 am - Sunday School at High St Property  
6 pm - Pastor Stephen |

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**Pastor Stephen will be on vacation from August 8th - 19th**

**Today’s Worship Songs**

- You Are Good
- My Hope Is In You Lord
- Jesus Loves Me

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**Valley Isle Fellowship**

473 S High St, PO Box 886, Wailuku, HI 96793  
ph: (808) 244-0865 • vifoffice@hawaii.rr.com • www.vifmaui.com

**SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES**

Wailuku Elementary School Cafeteria  
355 S High St, Wailuku, HI 96793  
Service - 9:00 am  
Sunday School - 10:30 am  
*Children & Youth Sunday School at High Street property*

**SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE**

VIF Church Sanctuary  
6:00 pm

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**Associate Pastor**

*Darren Sarmiento*  
Cell: (808) 757-1651  
Email: darrenvif@hawaii.rr.com

**Senior Pastor**

*Stephen Kaneshiro*  
Cell: (808) 419-8100  
Email: ICASTEPHEN@gmail.com  
121 Ho’owaiwai Lp #801  
Wailuku, HI 96793

**Associate Pastor**

*Jeremy Kaneshiro*  
Cell: (808) 280-2780  
Email: vifjeremy@gmail.com
Ephesians 5:21-30 (NLT):  

21 And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.  
22 For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord.  
23 For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church.  
24 As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.  
25 For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her  
26 to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word.  
27 He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.  
28 In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself.  
29 No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church.  
30 And we are members of his body.

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1. Husbands ___________ for your wives.  
   A. Die to ___________.  
   B. Live your life in a way so that it is all about ___________.

2. Wives ___________ to your husbands.  
   A. Be ___________.  
   B. He is ___________ as head of the household.

   We can’t do it on our own, so how do we do it?

3. It is _____________ on our church life!

Notes: