

Immigration

A case study on Christians
balancing duty to
government and Scripture





This is not advice to a government

- We must serve God and obey our governments
 - What does that look like in difficult situations?
- Let's look at examples of this with immigration in our country
 1. Being an ICE Agent
 2. Being an immigrant wrongly detained
 3. Being a principal asked to hand over a child

Being an ICE agent



Being an ICE Agent

- ICE = Immigration and Customs Enforcement
 - This is the US government agency that deports illegal aliens
 - (It was INS when I grew up)
- This is a tough job. Like the police, but often morally and legally gray

Being an ICE Agent

- It is not sinful to work for a government
 - **Romans 13:1–4** — God authorizes government agents to punish
 - **Matthew 8:5–13** — Jesus praises the centurion's faith
 - **Luke 3:12-14** — Government workers told be honest and kind
- Empathy is due – we are talking about real people
 - **Deuteronomy 10:18-19** – love the sojourner
 - **Deuteronomy 24:17-22** – not pervert justice
 - **Luke 10:25-37** – Good Samaritan
- Callousness is fatal
 - **Exodus 22:21-24** – not oppress
 - **Ephesians 4:17-19** - callous
 - **1 John 2:9-11** – love brother

Being a detainee



Being a detainee

- Some immigrants are detained with no due process and sent hundreds of miles away
 - Much like being a slave – no rights
- Slaves suggested to obtain freedom if they can
 - **1 Corinthians 7:21**
- Paul used his citizenship to be rescued
 - **Acts 22:25-26**
- But suffering unjustly is not new to the faith
 - **1 Peter 2:13-17** – Serve government
 - **1 Peter 2:18-21** – Servants obey even in injustice
 - **1 Peter 4:12-16** – Christians suffer even in injustice

Being a principal asked to hand over a child



Being a principal asked to hand over a child

- You are caught in the middle
 - **Philemon 10-21** – Paul pleads for Onesimus to go free
 - Paul had some leverage; he seemed to always have a card to play
- Tempts you to civil disobedience
 - **Exodus 23:1-9** – do not follow the crowd
 - **Deuteronomy 1:16-17** – judge fairly, even the stranger

Conclusions

- Have you ever abused authority that you had, or were cruel to someone?
- Have you ever been oppressed and not acted Christ-like?
- If you feel you have now changed for good, don't lord it over others. Rather, have mercy.
- **Matthew 18:21-35**

