

The Pledge

Pt. 1 - Allegiance

Allegiance (defined) - Loyalty or commitment of a subordinate to a superior or of an individual to a group or cause. (Synonyms) - loyalty, faithfulness, fidelity, obedience, adherence, devotion, trustworthiness, steadfastness, dependability, reliability, duty, dedication, commitment.

Note - Allegiance is not a word we use much because it's not a thing we are familiar with.

- Only God is worthy of our true allegiance.

Luke 4:8, Jesus replied, "The Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'"

Note - Allegiance is given to a Liege

Joshua 24:15, "But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Note - True equality can only be achieved within the recognition of true Supremacy! We are all equally subject to His Supreme being! He is God, we are not!

- We must pledge allegiance to the right FLAG.

4 Things That Require our Allegiance

1. F - Faith

Mark 11:22, Then Jesus said to the disciples, "Have faith in God."

Note - We need to believe our beliefs and doubt our doubts!

Romans 10:17, So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Note - An allegiance to faith will require an allegiance to God's Word!

2. L - Love

1 John 4:7, Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.

Note - Love and acceptance are not one and the same. God LOVED me like I was, but REFUSED to leave me that way.

Example - Changing Zeke's diaper

A - Accountability

James 5:16, Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

Note - Like Adam, we don't fig leaves and hide from God.

Example - The pastor's visit: Rev 3:20 & Gen 3:10

Hebrews 13:17, Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they watch on behalf of your souls, as those who will give account, that they may do this with joy, and not with groaning, for that would be unprofitable for you.

Note - True accountability will require allegiance because our fallen nature is ruthlessly independent!

Example - Post COVID church attendance

4. G - The Gospel

Mark 16:15, He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

Note - As a follower of Jesus, sharing the gospel is really the only reason we're here. Yet many of us have no allegiance to it whatsoever.

Romans 10:14, But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

- Faith, love, accountability and the gospel deserve more than a pledge!

Matthew 7:21, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."