

QA: What Problems Can "Illegal Immigrants" Cause? by John T Polk II

All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.

QUESTION: What problem can 'illegal immigrants' cause?

ANSWER: They can create confusion and lack of respect to the law of the land (Constitution). Exactly the same problem among God's People and the Bible. Within the churches of Christ, allowing outsiders to be accepted on their terms has caused a "mixed multitude" who are always murmuring about the way things are done in the church:

In The Old Testament, Egyptians mixed into Israelites:

Exodus 12:38 - they exited Egypt as if they were "in covenant" with the Israelites; **Numbers 11:4-15** - they disquieted Israelites because they missed the "meat" they had back in Egypt;

Nehemiah 13:1-3 - upon being returned to the Promised Land, a careful reading of the Law of Moses caused the Israelites to separate out the "mixed multitude," thus returning God's People back to their genealogical purity. The problem among "Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, *and* Moab," caused confusion, for:

Half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and could not speak the language of Judah, but spoke according to the language of one or the other people. (**Nehemiah 13:23-24**)

In The New Testament, unconverted are mixed among Christians: people have "been accepted" into local churches who never have obeyed the Gospel as God intended it to be done (Matthew 7:21; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 3:1-25); and from this "mixed multitude," come discussions/criticisms about us, comparing us with "other denominations;" and "can't we just get along?" and "we remember how loving denominations are;" and "how can we be so judgmental?" Christians must protect "sound speech:"

If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a *means* of gain. From such withdraw yourself. (1 Timothy 6:3-5)

Isn't it about time for Christians to re-read the rules of church membership in the New Testament, and enforce the rules already in the Book? What further discussion(s)

must there be to cease letting "outsiders" in (or outsiders' practices in!) without repentance and obedience:

For what *have* I *to do* with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? (**1 Corinthians 5:12**)

—— jtpll, October 31, 2021