

Key Quotes for the Session on Biblical Citizenship

Webster's 1828 Dictionary definition of **citizen** - *1. The native of a city, or an inhabitant who enjoys the freedom and privileges of the city in which he resides; the freeman of a city, as distinguished from a foreigner, or one not entitled to its franchises... 4. In general sense, a native or permanent resident in a city or country; as the citizens of London or Philadelphia; the citizens of the United States.*

Cleon Skousen summarizes **U.S. citizenship** requirements of the 1960's based on Art. I.8.4:

1. *The applicant must be at least eighteen years old.*
2. *The applicant must have proof that he or she entered the country lawfully.*
3. *The applicant must have lived in the United States for five consecutive years (three years if the spouse of a citizen), and he or she must have lived for six months in the state in which the petition is filed.*
4. *The applicant must be of good moral character, having two citizens to testify to the fact. According to U.S. law, an alien is not considered to be of good moral character if he or she is a drunkard, an adulterer, a bigamist or polygamist (having two or more wives at the same time), a professional gambler, a convicted murderer, or if he or she has lied to the Immigration and Naturalization Service or has been in jail more than 180 days during his or her five years in the United States.*
5. *The applicant must demonstrate a knowledge of the history and form of government of the United States and must be 'attached to the principles of the Constitution.'*
6. *The applicant must demonstrate an understanding of the English language and be able to speak, read, and write in common usage. (This requirement is waived if the applicant has a handicap that does not permit him to do these things.)*

The declaration of intention is filed with the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Sometimes an investigation is conducted. Eventually the applicant is called in to be examined. If the results are satisfactory, the applicant's file is sent to court where the applicant can be sworn in as a citizen of the United States and receive a certificate of naturalization. The oath of allegiance which every naturalized citizen must take is as follows:

'I hereby declare on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will perform noncombatant service in the armed forces by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, so help me God.'

(Skousen, Cleon, The Making of America, National Center for Constitutional Studies, 1985, pages 413-414)

Webster's 1828 definition of Conscience - *Internal or self-knowledge, or judgment of right and wrong; or the faculty, power or principle within us, which decides on the lawfulness or unlawfulness of our own actions and affections, and instantly approves or condemns them... Conscience is first occupied in ascertaining our duty, before we proceed to action; then in judging of our actions when performed.*

Webster's 1828 definition of Suffrage (voting) - *A vote; a voice given in deciding a controverted question, or in the choice of a man for an office or trust. Nothing can be more*

grateful to a good man than to be elevated to office by the unbiased suffrages of free enlightened citizens.

The Greek word *cheirotoneo* (Strong's #5500) – from “*teino (to stretch); to be a hand-reacher or voter (by raising the hand), to select or appoint (Strong's), to vote by stretching out the hand, to appoint... to create or appoint by vote (Thayer's Greek Lexicon)*

Note: Qualifications for voting were rooted Biblically in citizenship (consider Acts 25:11 when Paul appealed to Caesar based on his Roman citizenship). In America, original qualifications were based on property rights. You were voting to protect property since there were no property taxes or income taxes.

Webster's 1828 on **allodial** - *Pertaining to allodium; freehold; free of rent or service; held independence of a lord paramount; opposed to feudal – (a fee... the right which a vassal or tenant has to the lands... the property of the soil always remaining in the lord or superior.) ...ownership - Property; exclusive right of possession; legal or just claim or title.*

Mosheim writes – *In those early times, every Christian church consisted of the people, their leaders, and the ministers, or deacons, and these indeed, belong essentially to every religious society. The people were, undoubtedly, the first in authority; for the apostles themselves showed, by their own example, that nothing of moment was to be carried on or determined without the consent of the assembly... the churches, in those early times, were entirely independent; none of them subject to any foreign jurisdiction, but each one governed by its own rulers and its own laws.* (Mosheim, John, Ecclesiastical History, 1782, as quoted in CHOC with Union, pages 116, 120)

Leonard Bacon writes – *Constantine did not institute the episcopal form of government over the churches – he found it already existing... and in adopting Christianity as the religion of the empire, he adopted that ecclesiastical polity.* (Genesis of the New England Churches, in CHOC with Union, page 135)

John Adams letter to Jedidiah Morse, December 2, 1815 – *Where is the man to be found, at this day, when we Methodistical Bishops, Bishops of the Church of England, and Bishops, Archbishops and Jesuits of the Church of Rome with indifference, who will believe, that the apprehension of episcopacy contributed, fifty years ago, as much as any other cause, to arouse the attention, not only of the inquiring mind, but of the common people, and urge them to close thinking on the constitutional authority of Parliament over the colonies? This, nevertheless, was a fact as certain as any in the history of North-America.* (As quoted in Hall, Verna, CHOC with Union, Foundation for American Education, 1962, page 41)

Mark Beliles writes, *Christians in an election matter. If they refrain from voting, they help ungodly leaders to prevail. We no longer have the privilege of living in a culture that has both political parties that put forth choices of two strong Christians to choose between. Yet if we demand too much of a leader in order to vote for him, we help the worst leaders prevail. Almost never in Israel's Biblical history did they have consistently moral and perfect leaders.* (Beliles, Mark, Trump, Providence and Politics, National Transformation newsletter, July 17, 2024)