“Later the leaders sent some Pharisees and supporters of Herod to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested. “Teacher,” they said, “we know how honest you are. You are impartial and don’t play favorites. You teach the way of God truthfully. Now tell us—is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay them, or shouldn’t we?” Jesus saw through their hypocrisy and said, “Why are you trying to trap me? Show me a Roman coin, and I’ll tell you.” When they handed it to him, he asked, “Whose picture and title are stamped on it?” “Caesar’s,” they replied. “Well, then,” Jesus said, “give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.” His reply completely amazed them.” (Mark 12:13–17, NLT)

“Then God gave the people all these instructions: “I am the LORD your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery.” (Exodus 20:1–2, NLT)

God taught us how to live as one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

1. RESPECT GOVERNMENT.

“Be a good citizen. All governments are under God. Insofar as there is peace and order, it’s God’s order. So live responsibly as a citizen. If you’re irresponsible to the state, then you’re irresponsible with God, and God will hold you responsible.” (Romans 13:1–2, Message)

a. Not every official or every law is endorsed by God.

“It lays down a clear distinction between spiritual and civil government, in order to inform us that outward subjection does not prevent us from having within us a conscience free in the sight of God. … In short, Christ declares that it is no violation of the authority of God, or any injury done to his service, if, in respect of outward government, the Jews obey the Romans.” -John Calvin
b. The Bible does not prescribe a certain form of government.

c. The Church and Government have overlapping but distinct roles.

   “Jesus answered, “My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world.”” (John 18:36, NLT)

d. Government is not God.

2. **LIVE RESPECTFULLY AND RESPONSIBLY TO MY GOVERNMENT.**

   “For the Lord’s sake, submit to all human authority—whether the king as head of state, or the officials he has appointed. … It is God’s will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. … Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king.” (1 Peter 2:13–17, NLT)

   a. Be a good citizen.

      “No, O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8, NLT)

   b. Be examples to your neighbors.

   c. When government is off track disagree publicly and respectfully; we can protest; we can disobey.

   d. We pray for the government at all times.

      “I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity.” (1 Timothy 2:1–2, NLT)
3. **GOD IS KING OVER ALL THE WORLD!**

   “For God is the King over all the earth.” (Psalm 47:7, NLT)

   “I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism. In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right.” (Acts 10:34–35, NLT)

4. **MY ULTIMATE ALLEGIANCE IS TO CHRIST.**

   “Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name.” (Hebrews 13:15, NLT)

**GROWTHWORK**

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45, NLT)

   I will serve.
   I will give.