

Ralph Drollinger, President and Founder of Capitol Ministries and leader of the D.C. Bible studies, was asked by Members of President Donald Trump's White House Cabinet to provide perspective from Scripture on illegal immigration and whether nations had biblical authority to build barriers to protect citizens from invaders. Here are his thoughts:



Dear Members of the Cabinet, Senate, and House Bible Studies:

At the White House Cabinet Member Bible study, Cabinet Members asked me to provide some biblical insights relative to the wall impasse. Accordingly, and with all humility, my insights from Scripture follow.

America was established with a presupposition of **tolerance, understanding, and reasonability** of and toward one another. Without that, our hybrid form of government does not work at any level. For example, the institutional separation of Church and State presupposes that for there to be unity in the public square, there does not necessarily have to be unity in the shrine (i.e. our religious beliefs) (cf. Verduin, Leonard: *The Anatomy of A Hybrid*). This presupposition is unlike any held by any country ever before us. To function, this presupposition requires **tolerance, understanding, and reasonability** in the populous. In fact, these aforesaid virtues underlie the total workability of our First Amendment. Furthermore, without **tolerance, understanding, and reasonability** our form of government will not function on any level! Our personal liberties above and beyond religious freedom in a syncretistic culture are all based upon our being able to somehow get along with one another – even though we might disagree! Note the biblical basis of each:

Tolerance. Romans 2:4 indicates how God is **tolerant** toward us as sinners: ***Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?*** Ephesians 4:2 indicates how God expects His attribute of **tolerance** to be present in us. I.e., to be Christ-like we need to be **tolerant** toward others: ***...with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love.*** Likened to the character of God, I must be **kind, tolerant, and patient** toward those who presently see things differently. God is not obstinate, nor should we be!

Understanding. The book of Proverbs, God's OT thesis that defines wisdom, uses the word **understanding** over and over again! Do I seek to **understand** another's point of view? Do I begin conversations with, "Help me to **understand** your point of view." If not, I am not manifesting God's wisdom. Coach Wooden used to say, "disagree, but don't be disagreeable!"

Reasonability. In our ongoing present study of the Book of James, the Greek word translated **reasonability** in James 3:17 appears in the shopping list of godly characteristics that define **the wisdom from above** in contrast to the wisdom of this world (cf. James 3:15). If you say you are wise (and our country deserves wise leaders), you must be **reasonable** with others! To be **reasonable** is to be fair and sensible.

Add to this that God's Word explicitly states we are to be submissive to governing authorities. That is clear from Romans 13:1-8 and I Peter 2:13-14. In that our President is elected through an Electoral College process as our leader, we need to follow his lead (presupposing the direction he desires us to go as a nation is biblically based; I will get to that next). Biblical obedience more than suggests we need to follow our leader, not stand against him. If I don't like his direction then I should work to elect someone else. But until then, I need to submit to the office.

In specific regard to building a wall, is that a biblically justifiable objective? The answer is an unequivocal YES; God had Nehemiah build a wall to protect His people. Further, see my attached Bible study on illegal immigration. Note the section wherein God has OT Israel classify people into **citizens, sojourners, and illegals**. These monikers of distinction are applicable to every nation today – including ours. Accordingly, in God's eyes, our President has every biblical right to construct a wall in order to keep out **illegals**. And since he is our elected leader, we the people, including Congress, should submit to his authority as our President and all get behind building the wall. Such a spirit stands in contrast to being intolerant, lacking understanding, being unreasonable, or downright rebellious. POTUS is pursuing a biblically justifiable objective. This is to say nothing of the pragmatic wellbeing of the **illegals** themselves and the **citizens** of our nation.

I trust these biblical principles will aid you as you think through your actions relative to this serious matter.

Most sincerely,



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