

STUDY ON World Today - Christianity, Nationalism, Patriotism

Journey Together 2025 Weekly Sermon Series

Warming Up... 1. When someone asks you where are you from what do you say? 2. What would you consider your nationality? Citizenship may make you legally part of a nation, but what would you say makes you feel like it's your nation?		Aims & Objectives of today's session: Today's main purpose is to be able to see and understand our responsibility in the nation that we're living in, and the deeper dive is to explore dangers of how we might prioritise our own culture over Christ.
Basic Study: Impacting Where We Are Read Matthew 5:13-16 1. What do you think Jesus meant when He called His followers "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world"? 2. How does being "salt" relate to influencing the moral or spiritual flavour of the nation we live in? 3. Jesus warns that salt can lose its saltiness. What might that look like for Christians today — in how we live, speak, or engage society? 4. In verses 14–16, Jesus describes a city on a hill and a lamp on a stand. How do these images challenge the tendency to keep faith private or hidden? 5. Verse 16 talks about a life that reflects God so much so that others glorify God. How might that happen? What are some practical ways we can let our "light shine" in the UK (or your current nation) — in community life, workplaces, or public witness?	Deep Dive : Loving culture/tradition more than God Read Acts 15:1-21 1. What problems were the early Christians addressing, and how was it connected to cultural or national identity? 2. In what ways did the decision of the Jerusalem Council affirm that salvation is by grace through faith, not by cultural conformity or national heritage? 3. How can we unknowingly behave like those early believers who tried to impose their national or traditional ways on others? 4. In your own context, are there aspects of national pride or cultural tradition that could compete with your devotion to God? 5. How do you respond to the idea of "cultural Christianity"? What dangers or opportunities does it bring to our faith witness today?	Homework / Challenge for this week Doing theological reflection on contemporary issues. 1. Focus on an issue in the world today. Capture it in a short, specific phrase. 2. Fill out your understanding of the issue as richly as you can - senses, context, significance. How does it make you feel. Write/draw. 3. Find connections with Scripture and previous experiences with God. Ponder/pray. 4. Look again at the issue in light of the new perspective of step 3: what insights have you gained? Action: Write down 2-3 actions that your reflection leads you to consider taking. (Ruby did this at All Nations. You can ask her more about it) Ending with prayer Lord, thank you for bringing me here. Let me love the people here the way that you do, and let your light shine through me.