



THE FOURSQUARE CHURCH

Foursquare Statement on Immigrants

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Introduction

Throughout America's history, people have come to these shores from every part of the earth, joining the original inhabitants of this country. We recognize that the issue of immigration is politically charged and often controversial, yet vitally important. Immigrants, however, are human beings created in God's image, deserving of dignity, and of utmost importance to God and to The Foursquare Church in the United States.

Biblical Concepts Regarding Immigrants

The Foursquare Church of the United States believes in and endeavors to apply the teachings of the Old Testament that are relevant to the treatment of immigrants. The biblical patriarchs were immigrants. Their experiences help inform our beliefs and practices regarding immigrants: our outreach and ministry to them and our partnership with them.

Leviticus 19:33-34 states, "And if a stranger dwells with you in your land, you shall not mistreat him. The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I *am* the Lord your God." Deuteronomy 24:14-22 addresses the ethical treatment of strangers or aliens in work practices, legal processes, and charitable provision. The prophet Isaiah stated that "the sons of the foreigners" will join with God's chosen people in worship of Him. His house will be called "a house of prayer for all nations" (56:6-7).

We recognize and embrace the New Testament concept that all followers of Christ are "immigrants" in this world because it is not our home. Jesus declared that He was not of this world (John 8:23), and Paul clearly stated that believers' citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20). Holding to this understanding gives us a kinship with immigrants to our country. Furthermore, the teachings of Jesus and the early church leaders clearly demonstrate God's heart to reach out to those from other nations and ethnic groups.

Conclusion

The Foursquare Church of the United States endeavors to reach all people who come to this nation, whether as visitors or immigrants. We believe some immigrants are brought here by the Lord to help the U.S. church extend God's Kingdom as we evangelize, develop leaders, plant churches, and send out missionary workers. We are dedicated to developing these relationships and cultivating partnerships in ministry. We will commit to adapting our structures and policies to serve the mission to which we are called.

We also recognize that many immigrants come to this land when their lives or nations are shaken by spiritual, natural, economic, or political upheaval. But we believe many are also brought here to experience salvation in Jesus Christ. We have a responsibility to find ways to demonstrate and share this good news, ultimately making disciples.

Our response requires us to live with a Kingdom of God priority in both our practice and our polity. We will give special attention to reaching those "strangers" and "foreigners" among us who are often most disenfranchised in our culture.