

# I Pledge Allegiance...

Pastor Bryan Keith Dugger - 07/03/2016



## I. Loyalty & Patriotism

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## II. The Church & The State

Romans 13:1-7

v. 1-3

Subject to Authority

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v. 4

The Mandate for Government

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v. 5-7

Submission, Respect & Honor

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## III. Our First Allegiance

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## Personal Reflection

*Set aside fifteen minutes this week to pray & respond to the following:*

*Though America is far from perfect, its greatness as a nation & influence as a force for good is clear. Despite many missteps & missed opportunities throughout the years, people from all over the world still dream of immigrating to the “land of the free & home of the brave.”*

*The greatness of the United States is rooted in the declaration of of personal liberty expressed in the Constitution’s Bill of Rights. These inalienable rights are directly tied to the sacredness of human life & the duty to uphold righteousness—foundational truths that are clear in God’s Word.*

*It is natural & altogether normal to love one’s nation. True patriotism is born out of pride in one’s homeland & love for one’s countrymen. It is biblically permissible to pledge allegiance to one’s homeland provided that one’s final & highest allegiance is reserved for the Lord. It is He that mandates the existence of government & gives consent to the formation of nations.*

*To whom or what are you pledging allegiance? What does the testimony of your time & energy investment reveal about your allegiances & priorities? Has God been given the proper, first-place in your focus of allegiance?*

*Prayerfully thank God for the blessing of living in a nation where freedom & the pursuit of happiness are upheld. Moreover,*

*Ask God to reveal how your allegiance to Him should manifest in your role as a citizen of the United States of America. Commit to pursue excellence in your duties as a citizen of this temporary earthly kingdom & as a citizen of His eternal kingdom.*