

Chinese Christian Contribution to Nation Building 中国基督徒在建设国家中所起的作用

Cao Shengjie 曹圣洁

Abstract 内容摘要

The Church in China for the past fifty years often refer to Roman 13; 1-7, 1 Peter 2:11, Philippians 1:27 and other scripture texts which are discussed in Bruce Winter's book *Seek the Welfare of the City*. Our experience confirms that the conclusion of this book "civic duties do not conflict with Christian faith" is correct.

1. The history of the Chinese church shows us that if the conduct of missionary activities depart from the truth of the Gospel and violate the national welfare of the believers, they would alienate the church from the people and become self-defeating.
2. Chinese Christians initiated in 1950 a Three-self Patriotic Movement, and have come a long way in encouraging believers to "love country and religion", "be light and salt", and "glory God and edify men". Christian population rose from 700 thousand to more than 16 million since 1949. We regard the ruling Communist Party (who are atheist) to be a political authority that "rewards good and punish wrong". There is mutual respect on matters of faith,; and cooperation on charitable endeavours.
3. The Chinese government present policy on building up a harmonious socialist society is consistent with Christian social ethics. It presents us with a golden opportunity to contribute to the welfare of the society. We are guiding believers to a theological understanding of living in peace with God, with man, and with the natural order. On that basis we can embark on practical social ministries, in order to bring about religious harmony, social concord, and world peace.

Bruce Winter 博士所著的《你们要为那城求平安》所研讨的经文，如罗 13：1-7，彼前 1-2：11，腓 1：27 等，都是中国教会近半个世纪以来经常引用的。中国教会的经验证明这本书的结论“基督徒尽公民责任，与信仰并不矛盾”是正确的。

1、中国教会的历史教训是：以不符合福音真谛、损害信徒本国利益的方式进行宣教，只会使教会脱离人民，宣教也难取得成功。

2、中国基督徒在 1950 年发起的三自爱国运动，鼓励信徒“爱国爱教”、“作光作盐”、“荣神益人”取得了很好的效果，信徒从 70 万人（1949 年）发展至 1600 万以上。我们把执政的共产党（无神论者）看成“赏善罚恶”的政权，在信仰上互相尊重，在善事上进行合作。

3、当前，中国政府提倡构建社会主义和谐社会，与基督教的社会伦理相符合，是我们向社会作贡献的大好时机。我们正引导信徒建立人与神、人与人、人与自然的和好关系的神学思想，和进一步开展社会服务的实践，促进宗教和睦，社会和谐，世界和平。