Born to Serve: Relative to the State and the Home
1 Thess. 1:9-10

Introduction:
1. Christians are "born again" to serve.
2. God. (1 Thess. 1:9-10).
3. Man. (1 Cor. 1:19).

B. Christians are to serve in various relationships.
1. Social, economic, etc.
2. My subject: state and home.

Discussion:
I. We Are To Serve God And Man In The State.
A. Our real citizenship is in heaven. (Phil. 3:20)
1. Takes precedent over earthly citizenship. (cf. Acts 5:29)
2. Are away from home waiting to go home.
B. Yet, we have an obligation to our earthly citizenship - the state.
2. We should serve it well.
   b. By paying taxes, customs, etc. (Rom. 13:7; Matt. 22:21)

II. We Are To Serve God And Man In The Home.
B. Serve in the home with Love.
1. Not Soap Opera or fairy tale variety.
2. But, real love that can be taught, learned and cultivated. (Eph. 5:25; Col. 3:19; Tit. 2:4)
3. Love demonstrated by deeds. (1 Cor. 13:4-7; 1 John 3:18)
C. Serve in the home with Peace.
1. Wedding ring shouldn't be symbol of fighting ring. (cf. Prov. 21:19; 25:24)
2. Wedding bells should not signal beginning of round one.
3. Wedding ceremonies can be followed by peace if:
   a. Will not let disagreements degenerate into strife. (cf. take a walk)
   b. Will work for peace. (Not 50-50, but 75-75 proposition)
   c. Will resist outside agitation of family and friends. ("Leave & Cleave")
D. Serve in the home with Consideration.
1. Each make the others role easy to fulfil.
   a. Wives make it easy for husband.
      (1) To rule his house. (Eph. 5:25; 1 Tim. 3:5)
      (2) To be a breadwinner. (1 Tim. 5:8)
   b. Husbands make easy for wife.
      (1) To submit and obey.(1 Pet. 3:7; Eph. 5:28)
      (2) To be a keeper at home. (Tit. 2:5)
   c. Children make it easier for parents and vice versa.
2. Attend to each others basic needs. (1 Cor. 7:1-5).
   a. Failure results in, but no excuse for infidelity and broken marriages.
   b. Failure often caused by being too busy with other things.
E. Serve in the home with Spirituality.
1. Mutual respect for God and His will makes a good marriage.
2. Mutual respect for God's will makes good parent-child relationship.
3. Bible re-enforces "home" responsibility with spiritual motives.
   a. Peace because GOD has called us to peace. (1 Cor. 7:15).
   b. Love and submit like CHRIST and THE CHURCH. (Eph. 5)
   c. Behave lest WORD OF GOD be blasphemed. (Tit. 2:5).
   d. Behave because it is a great price in GOD's sight. (1 Pet. 3:4)
   e. Behave lest PRAYERS be hindered. (1 Pet. 5:7).
   f. Children obey parents IN THE LORD. (Eph. 6:1).
   g. Parents bring up children in admonition OF THE LORD. (Eph. 6:4)

Conclusion:
A. Faithful Christians make good citizens in any state.
B. Faithful Christians make good husbands, wives, parents and children.