

**No. 4      Why True Christians Need Courage (Symposium)  
            -To Maintain Neutrality**

[PLEASE NOTE: This talk includes a video]

**WHY TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE NEUTRAL (2 min.)**

Neutrality is defined as "the position of those who do not take sides with or give support to either of two or more contending parties" (rs 269)

Why do Christians remain neutral in the affairs of this world?

The whole world lies in the power of Satan (1Jo 5:19)

Christians are no part of the world, so they maintain strict neutrality and take no part in the world's political and social conflicts (Joh 17:14)

**WHY CHRISTIANS NEED COURAGE TO BE NEUTRAL (5 min.)**

Since the first world war, the question of government has become a burning issue [Read Revelation 8:8, 9] (re 135 ¶24)

Much pressure is put on people to take sides in the political and social issues of Satan's world [Read Revelation 13:16, 17] (re 197 ¶36)

God's servants do not get involved with protesters or dissenters who want to bring about political change [Read Proverbs 24:21 and footnote]

Christians live by the principle stated at Luke 20:25

Youths know that maintaining neutrality means not saluting a flag or singing a national anthem

They are even careful to avoid becoming involved in school politics

This position requires courage and determination

The following video shows courageous Witnesses who maintained their neutrality under pressure

**VIDEO (3 min.)**

**STRENGTHEN YOUR RESOLVE TO REMAIN NEUTRAL (7 min.)**

We can expect this world to become ever more divided and polarized

We should not be surprised if human governments become less tolerant of our firm loyalty to Jehovah and his Kingdom

Because of the rapidly changing political environment, we may face unexpected challenges to our neutrality

We cannot wait until we face a challenging situation before deciding what we will do (Pr 22:3)

How can you strengthen your resolve to stay neutral? (w16.04 27-31)

Share Jehovah's view of political systems (Ec 8:9)

Exercise caution when political issues are brought up

Do not adopt a bias gleaned from the news media (Pr 14:15)

Avoid undue pride of race, nation, tribe, culture, or city

Do not allow sports to stir up nationalistic feelings in you

Pray for holy spirit, which gives us the qualities needed to cope with corruption and injustice

Meditate on such verses as Mark 12:17 and Acts 5:29, which can help you maintain your neutrality under test

Read and meditate on the examples of Witnesses who have maintained their neutrality in modern times

**THE BLESSINGS OF MAINTAINING NEUTRALITY (2 min.)**

Because Jehovah has blessed our efforts worldwide to maintain a neutral stand, Satan has failed to divide and conquer us

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In a world divided by strife, we enjoy a united brotherhood  
We avoid bloodguilt by not sharing in this world's wars (Isa 2:4)  
We enjoy a good relationship with Jehovah because we give him the  
exclusive devotion he requires (Ex 34:14)  
May we be determined to remain part of Jehovah's unique people by  
showing courage to remain neutral in a divided world!

TO BE COVERED IN 19 MINUTES

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