

Christianity and Politics

Our Goal:

- Address what should be the Christian view of politics – NOT THIS SPECIFIC ELECTION.
- Should Christians vote?
- Role of the Pastor, the Church Body in Politics.
- How to engage in conversation in a manner that reflects Christ.

(There will be no direct mention of candidates currently running for office)

Rules of Engagement for Discussing Politics:

- Leave Your Ego at the Door When Discussing Politics
- Show Grace Instead of Outrage Toward Those Who Disagree With You. Don't Assume the Worst of Those You Disagree With.
- Question ideas, without attacking the person who holds them.
- Work Hard to First Understand What the Other Person is Saying.
- Move the Conversation 'Upstream'.
- Do the hard work of understanding the other person's views.
- Give The Other Person the Last Word.
- Don't split your church over earthly politics.

Current Views of our Nation:

Pew Research Center leaned into this question in a recent comprehensive [survey](#) that identified widespread criticism of all three branches of government. Results of the survey of 13,000 Americans offer little surprise but should be of grave concern.

Both political parties, and their political leaders and candidates, are viewed with great skepticism by the American public at large, with 65% summarizing their view as exhausting and 55% feeling angry about the current political landscape.

Consider some of these findings:

- 63% of Americans surveyed said they have little or no confidence in the future of the U.S. political system.
- Only 16% of the public trust the federal government most or all the time, placing public trust near historic lows for the last 70 years.
- 28% stated they hold unfavorable views of both parties, and 25% explained they are not well-represented by either party.
- 63% currently view the emerged presidential candidates as dissatisfactory or underwhelming, and only 26% rate the candidates as good or very good.
- The majority of America support age and term limits for officials.
- In 2020 an estimated 31 million Christians did not vote on local and national level elections.

The Pastor and His Political View:

1. Preach the Bible and help people apply it.

“A pastor can make two errors here—ignore the topic or pretend he’s an expert on policy.”

- The Pulpit is for the Word of God and nothing else
- Sheperd the Flock – feed, protect, heal, and teach.

2. Find healthy unity through a proper theology of the conscience.

“In a polarizing country, political unity seems increasingly impossible without uniformity. Denomination and church splits can send the same message: unless we agree on everything, we can’t be together.”

- As a pastor I need to articulate a way for Christians to be together without being the same.

“The doctrine of bearing God’s image is fundamental to what it means to be human and live alongside others who may or may not agree with you,”

- When I am considering different points of view, I will guard against assuming the right way is somewhere in the middle. Instead, I will lean solely on the Word of God.

3. Pastors should address important issues where the Bible speaks:

- Address issues like race, the sanctity of life, character, poverty, etc...
- Focus on the unity of the Church – people over politics, God above all things.

4. Model What I Want to See:

- Pastors need to be wise about the way they engage on social media, political debate, and how we interact with those we disagree with theologically, socially, and politically.

5. Commit to Unity:

- A pastor should recognize that a local body of believers might be unified on the essentials of the faith, but might land in different places on policy, politics, and politicians.
- Unity isn't accidental; it takes a work of the Spirit of God and intentionality by Christian leaders.
- Unity doesn't mean uniformity and it doesn't preclude hard conversations. A pastor should address "Biblical issues" as they are reflected in society. He cannot be a social warrior – He should be a Christian warrior reflecting both God's Word and the Characteristics of God and how they need to be applied in the Christian's life.

Biblical Viewpoint on Government:

Romans 13:1 - [Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.](#)

The Christian is to obey the civil laws of government, *regardless of that government's response to the gospel.* Paul did not say, "Only the authorities that support the gospel are instituted by God." *All* authority is. The believer is not called to promote or undermine the authority God has instituted. Whether we like our civil authorities or not, we understand that God actually raised them up to fulfill His divine purposes for the world — which we may not see fulfilled in our lifetime!

A moral government or nation is *not* necessary to have a thriving church. At the time Paul wrote this letter to Rome, pedophilia, adultery and idolatry were commonplace. Bisexuality was so widely encouraged that Emperor Nero himself openly consorted with men and women. It was in this immoral environment that Jesus planted His church. And to this day, the persecuted church all across the world continues to thrive in the midst of moral decay and darkness.

It is not necessary for the church to have freedom in order to be *faithful.* Have you ever thought about the fact that here in America, where we have religious freedom, the percentage of self-identifying Christians is actually shrinking, while in persecuted places, like China, the gospel is multiplying rapidly? Our Great Commission from Christ is not dependent on the First

Amendment. Our mission to make disciples of all nations remains whether we live in a free democracy, a repressive monarchy, or even under the terror of someone like Nero.

We are not commanded to battle or diminish cultural immorality, but to *shine* as light. If you light a candle in broad daylight, its impact is barely noticeable. But when you light a lamp in the middle of a dark room, that little flame can make a remarkable difference as it lights up an entire room. The same is true with the church. The darker the environment, the brighter and more obvious our light as we shine for the glory of Christ.

Can you imagine Paul suggesting to Roman believers that the solution to changing Roman culture was through boycotts, marches, protests, or legislation? We're never told to fix the symptoms of a sinful culture – we are told to address the root of sin and our culture's need for Christ and His gospel.

We have not been called by God to save America; we have been called by God to save Americans. We have the advantage of being able to read the *end* of the story and we know that the kingdoms and countries of our world will pass away and the Kingdom of Christ will reign eternal.

If we want to make real, lasting change in this world, then it's time for the church to get back to the business of being the church. We are ambassadors of another Kingdom, commissioned and appointed by Christ to the outposts of earth with the same command — to introduce our world to the gospel — which is the power of salvation to everyone who believes.

Should Christians be Involved with Politics?:

“We’ve all been shaped—consciously or not—by the algorithms of the social media feeds we follow. Our interests and opinions are reinforced by the minute as Americans become more and more divided by one-sided viewpoints or often outright deceptions.” JM

- Jesus seems to have directly avoided politics while highlighting that we should “give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.” All during Jesus’ ministry, the crowds (and even His own disciples) wanted Him to become a political leader and drive the Romans out of Israel. Jesus had a higher kingdom in mind than any of the earthly ones. If Jesus seems to have avoided politics, why should we become involved?
- Today, in the United States, our laws are not set by religious authorities or a dictatorial system such as that in ancient Rome, but by a civil process working

through our federal and state Constitutions, elected executives, elected legislatures, and local elected councils.

- The problem, however, is when we begin to elevate politics and political service to dominate our lives. Politics can become an idol, and we can easily begin to put our trust and faith in political leaders instead of where it rightfully belongs.
- We are all called to seek the good where we are. To be the salt and light that God calls us to be. That can be done in all kinds of ways, including through politics and government. Daniel was an excellent administrator in a foreign nation that conquered Israel. ***From what we are told in the Bible, he carried out his work faithfully unless it contradicted God's teaching.***

So How should Christians vote...if at all?:

“As we approach the November elections, many Christians find themselves grappling with the decision of whether to vote and how to navigate the divided political landscape. In a world where secular values often clash with biblical truth, it's crucial that Christians understand their responsibility to engage in the electoral process and to vote. This engagement is not just a civic duty, but a biblical imperative. Many will rightly remind you that we should not place our eternal hope in political parties or candidates. However, this theological truth doesn't absolve us from the responsibility to be good stewards of our citizenship and to vote.” – JS

- Voting is a stewardship issue. Like the servants in the parable of the talents, we have been entrusted with the gift of freedom, and the responsibility to participate in our political process. Inaction out of fear or indifference is not an option that honors God.
- We will always have imperfect options, and we should consider which candidate is moving in a better direction and whose policies best protect the vulnerable,

especially children. It's crucial to dig past campaign slogans to understand the positions of both parties and their leading candidates on important moral issues.

- God calls on us to play an influencing role in our culture, raising our voices. If we don't, the wicked certainly will. "When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices; when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy. Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed" ([Proverbs 11:10-11](#)).
- We must approach this election with prayer, discernment, and a commitment to biblical principles. Our vote is not just a political act, but a spiritual one — a tangible way we can love our neighbors, protect the vulnerable, and uphold objective truth in our community, state and nation.
- God permeates and supersedes every aspect of life. It is God's Will that takes precedence over everything and everyone ([Matthew 6:33](#)). God's plans and purposes are fixed, and His will is inviolable. What He has purposed, He will bring to pass, and no government can thwart His will ([Daniel 4:34-35](#)). In fact, it is God who "sets up kings and deposes them" ([Daniel 2:21](#)) because "the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes" ([Daniel 4:17](#)). A clear understanding of this truth will help us to see that politics is merely a method God uses to accomplish His will. Even though evil men abuse their political power, meaning it for evil, God means it for good, working "all things together for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" ([Romans 8:28](#)).
- One of Satan's grandest deceptions is that we can rest our hope for cultural morality and godly living in politicians and governmental officials. A nation's hope for change is not to be found in any country's ruling class. The church has made a mistake if it thinks that it is the job of politicians to defend, to advance, and to guard biblical truths and Christian values.
- The Bible teaches that a leader in the church should be a godly, moral, ethical person ([1 Timothy 3:1-13](#); [Titus 1:6-9](#)). This should apply to political leaders as well. If politicians are going to make wise, God-honoring decisions, they must have a basic morality and worldview on which to base the decisions they are going to have to make. So if there is a clear moral distinction between candidates, as Christians, we should choose the more moral, honest, and ethical of the candidates.

- Politics is always going to be a difficult issue for Christians. We are in this world but are not to be of this world ([1 John 2:15](#)). We can be involved in politics, but we should not be obsessed with politics.
- It is our contention that it is the duty and responsibility of every Christian to vote and to vote for leaders who promote Christian principles. God is most certainly in control, but that does not mean we should do nothing to further His will.
- America's moral decline is a spiritual problem, not a political one, and its solution is the gospel, not partisan politics.
- Throughout Protestant history, those segments of the visible church that have turned their attention to social and political issues have also compromised sound doctrine and quickly declined in influence.
- But the truth is that no human government can ultimately do anything either to advance or to thwart God's kingdom. And the worst, most despotic worldly government in the end cannot halt the power of the Holy Spirit or the spread of God's Word.
- We can't protect or expand the cause of Christ by human political and social activism, no matter how great or sincere the efforts. Ours is a spiritual battle waged against worldly ideologies and dogmas arrayed against God, and we achieve victory over them only with the weapon of Scripture. The apostle Paul writes: "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" ([2 Corinthians 10:3-5](#)).
- God is not calling us to wage a culture war that would seek to transform our countries into "Christian nations." To devote all, or even most, of our time, energy, money, and strategy to putting a facade of morality on the world or over our governmental and political institutions is to badly misunderstand our roles as Christians in a spiritually lost world.

Videos/links address a Christian Perspective on Politics and Voting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZhYQ8V1STI> (role of the pastor)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWQEj18xJuA> (Should Christians be involved in politics?)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYYVpy84DMc> (Should Christian be involved with Gov't and politics – conservative view)

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Christians-vote.html> (Does God expect us to vote?)

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Republican-Democrat.html> (Should a Christian be a R or a D?)

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-politics.html> (How Should Christians view politics?)

<https://www.gty.org/library/Articles/A124/Christians-and-Politics-Part-1> (JM – Christian and politics)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W02PnS7EsTk> (Christians and politics and culture)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SitsLDo6X_Y (What does your vote do?)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPEGtj_AKeU (Praying through politics)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPyql3yEGP8> (Both stink...so I won't vote)

What then is the Answer – How do we Proceed as God's Church?:

- We will not use our position in the church to support or oppose a candidate or political party.
- We will not pray for a certain candidate to win the election, identify a particular candidate as God's selection or advocate a view of divine providence on a candidate or political platform.
- We will not preach in a way that characterizes a particular politician as a messianic figure who advocates for the kingdom of God or demonize an opposing candidate.
- We will not allow candidates or their backers to fundraise at church worship services or events.

- We will not share ads for or against a politician, candidate or party in our worship videos, bulletins, announcements or other church publications.
- We will not distribute pamphlets, brochures or other materials put out by a political organization, party or candidate.
- We will not apply church funds to a political candidate, party or campaign.
- We will not instruct the congregation on who or what to vote for in the election.
- We will not sell or share our membership records with political organizations seeking to solicit voters.
- We will not loan or rent our church property to a political party or candidate for campaign events.

What we pledge *for*:

- We will use our position in the church to encourage everyone who is able to exercise his or her right to vote according to the values and convictions of his or her conscience.
- We will pray for all our elected officials, regardless of who is elected, asking God to guide them with wisdom and discernment.
- We will focus our preaching on the revolutionary, counter-cultural, personal life of Jesus and the centrality of loving God and loving others, regardless of their political views.
- We will encourage a spirit of patriotism but oppose nationalistic ideology that advances America over the wellness of all human beings.
- We will strive to always use church funds for the expansion of the kingdom of God on earth in a way that reflects the values of heaven, recognizing the sovereignty of the king of kings above all human governments.

- We will maintain a spirit of worship toward God and not human beings in our services and in our action, which includes politicians and other governmental employees.
- We will covenant to love each other in the body of Christ, regardless of each other's political opinions.
- We will demonstrate covenantal love by talking about the issues of our time with respect and mutual kindness without resorting to mudslinging or defaming one another.
- We will advocate for the separation of church in the matters of the state and the separation of the state in the matters of the church.
- We will faithfully pay our taxes to the government as citizens of the United States and give our tithes and offering to the church as citizens of the kingdom of God.
- Regardless of the outcome of upcoming elections, we will rest in the presence and providence of God, seek to find our hope in the Lord and remain steadfast to walk in the ways of Jesus.