

The Christian and the World of Politics

Matt. 5:13-16

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Two extreme perspectives.

1. We should stay away from all political activity.
(Separatists or apathetic?)

Trust in the government – all time low

Recent Gallop Poll

53% trust the Supreme Court

45% trust the President

32% trust Congress

There are 2 kingdoms in conflict

My kingdom is not of this world... Jn. 18:36

Our citizenship is in heaven. Phil. 3:20

My kingdom is not of this world. Jn. 18:36

2. We should be in the middle of the political activity (activists)

Human governments are ordained by God to restrain evil. Rom. 13:1-3

Biblical examples – Joseph, Daniel, Nehemiah.

“The danger with Christian political movements, per se, is that they tend to make the gospel hostage to particular political agendas. You may wrap the cross in the flag and make God a prop for the state. And this is a grave danger.” Chuck Colson

What are some biblical guidelines for Christian involvement in politics?

1. The church should never lose sight of the “main thing.”

If then you have been raised with Christ... Col. 3:2

...who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God with angels, authorities and powers having been subjected to Him. 1 Peter 3:22

... Seek the things that are above, where Christ is ...

... seated at the right hand of God.

- His rule and reign
- His kingdom/ His government
- His authority/ power

Set your minds on things that are above.... (2)

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness... Matt. 6:33

... not on things that are on earth.

- temporary
- earthly
- physical /visible

- Seek Heaven
- Think Heaven
- Live Heaven

... strangers and exiles on the earth. Heb. 11:13b

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Matt. 28:18

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matt. 28:19

... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded You. (20)

“Know” = God’s Word in us changes us.

Making disciples is the great commission.

2. The Church should lead the way being “salt and light.”

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? Matt. 5:13

Negative – to stop evil

Positive – to bring flavor and value.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. (14)

... a light for the nations. Isa. 42:6

Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house (15)

Indonesia – one church near Jakarta has been padlocked by the government. They have held their services outside for two years. “We will not go away or be silenced.”

“There is no escaping the mixture of religion and politics because nearly every law is the result of somebody’s judgment about what is good and what is bad.” Tom Minnery

29 of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence had seminary or Bible school degrees.

The separation of Church and State does not mean the exclusion of God, righteousness or morality from the State.

The phrase, “Wall of separation between church and state” is not in the Constitution. It is found in a letter from President Thomas Jefferson to a Baptist Association reassuring them that the government would not infringe or hinder them.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (16)

Jesus is the light of the world. Jn. 9:5

Our job as Christians is to infiltrate where the bacteria of unrighteousness and darkness have permeated and made themselves at home. It's our job to act as salt and light in both parties and offer the Kingdom's point of view. Tony Evans

3. The Church should pray!

- Be a good citizen!

I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all people. 1 Tim. 2:1 ... for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. (2)

Peacemakers not troublemakers.

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good, work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling to be gentle and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. Titus 3:1.

... to aspire to live quietly and to mind your own affairs and to work with your hands. 1 Thess. 4:11

This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior (3)

Who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (4)

... not wishing that any should perish but that all should reach repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

- Have good character

.. That you may be blameless and innocent children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation among whom you shine as lights in the world. Phil. 2:15

To be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. Rom 16:19

World of Politics

- Can be crooked and twisted?
- Can make promises they have no intention on keeping?
- Can manipulate a crowd?
- Can believe a lie?

Who would Jesus vote for?

- Have good communication.

Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Col. 4:5

- Not the wisdom of the world but with the wisdom of God.
- "Who we are gives credibility to what we say."
- "We need to be good news before we can speak the Good News."

"Opportunities are like sunrises. If you wait too long, you miss them."

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. Col. 4:6

Only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion that it may give grace to those who hear. Eph. 4:29

... always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15