



Today we move to Worldview Puzzle Piece No. 9 –

## **POLITICS**

**Politics** is one of the universally considered HOT TOPICS. A topic to be wary of if you want to avoid conflict. You have surely heard of the old saying “Don’t talk about Religion or Politics”... That is all too often a truism, but it shouldn’t and doesn’t have to be.

If we truly Love God, and Love One Another, we can, and should address these and any other topic with wisdom, sensibility, respect and compassion,

You may be thinking “Is Politics really a theological or biblical subject for a sermon”? Well, my answer to that is a resounding YES! Just like all the other pieces of our Worldview Puzzle POLITICS should be securely founded in a Biblical Worldview understanding and practice.

Unfortunately, POLITICS, like the other pieces of our Worldview Puzzle; has been hi-jacked and twisted into a mold that is more humanistic and secular, than Biblical and Christian. Remember my intent is to take back what the secular world has stolen and reformatted from God’s Word and put it back into its rightful place... God’s Design!

So, let’s dive into the murky waters of POLITICS and rescue it back into the crystal clear waters of God’s Will!

In this three week mini-series we will look at the Biblical Precepts and Principles of Politics and Government and then the Why & How of Christian Engagement.

## **What is POLITICS anyway?**

“Politics (from Greek: Πολιτικά, politiká, = ('affairs of the cities') is the set of activities that are associated with making decisions in groups, or other forms of power relations between individuals, such as the distribution of resources or status. The branch of social science that studies politics and government is referred to as political science”. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics>

Merriam-Webster Dictionary says it is “the art or science of government” <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/politics>

David Closson in his paper “*Biblical Principles for Political Engagement* (Family Research Council) states: <https://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF19G02.pdf>

“Politics, properly understood, is about how groups of humans organize their affairs. In this sense, politics is intimately connected to community—how we relate to other people—and inextricable from the concept of loving one’s neighbor.” (Closson, p. 4)

In a Biblical Worldview understanding, Politics is inextricably linked to the concept of Government.

“Government was God’s idea, and Christians should engage with it in a way that is consistent with its God-ordained purpose.” (David Closson)

“Government, as a reflection of God’s Nature, is designed to be a positive good by keeping order so people can live peaceful and tranquil lives”. (Noebel & Edwards. *Thinking Like a Christian*. P. 153)

“Paul says we have three responsibilities in regards to government/politics...

First, we are to pray.

Second, we are to pay taxes.

Third, we are to obey the government—in so far as it does not infringe on our commitment to God”.

<https://www.moodymedia.org/>

A few weeks ago I preached two messages on Law and I stated that “Law and government was part of God’s plan from the very creation of the world. It’s core purpose is to encourage order, security, justice and peace in our society. Right relationships is the goal of Law...with God, with ourselves, with one another, and with the created world around us.

You can see how our motto and purpose statement...Loving God and Loving One Another applies here.

**My personal** working definition for this section is this;

**Politics is the application of Biblical governing principles to the everyday life of individuals and society.**

Our discussion today of Politics must be rooted in other pieces of our Worldview Puzzle...

Theology, Philosophy, Biology, Psychology, Sociology, Ethics, Law & History. We must draw from the rich resources of a Biblical Worldview in all these areas if we are to fulfill God’s plan for mankind.

There are many other opinions and views of what Politics is or isn’t, but I am focusing on a Biblical foundation and integration, not public opinion. I am not so naïve as to think that everyone, even some Christians think this way,

but it is my intent to reveal to you what I think is the way Biblical Worldview Christians should, think, speak and act in regards to politics and government.

Listen to what this article in Decision Magazine says on the subject:

“Do Christians have a moral or Biblical obligation to participate in government? Is there a distinctively Christian way to engage in the political process? Do Christians have a duty to vote, and if so, what principles should inform them as they cast their ballots?

Some say that Christians ought to be wary of associating too closely with elected officials or political parties because it risks conflating the responsibility of the church with that of the state. They ask: If God is sovereign and controls the heart of the king (Proverbs 21:1), why risk compromising our Gospel witness by getting involved in something so divisive? Others maintain that Christians ought to be heavily involved with politicians and partisan politics. They say that because politics are so important, it is worth investing significant resources to educate and mobilize the congregation for political activity.

The Gospel applies to all areas of life, and the Bible instructs us about government and political authority. Scripture advocates neither total withdrawal from the political process nor overinvestment in it. Thus, we need a third approach, a model in which actively engaged Christians faithfully apply Biblical principles to the current political challenges. But what does this model look like? What are the principles that can help us navigate our divisive political landscape”? <https://decisionmagazine.com/politics-how-involved-should-christians-be/>

Next week we will focus on the HOW of Engagement, but today I want to make sure you are certain of the WHY of engagement.

Noeble & Edwards, in their book “*Understanding the Times*”, gives these thoughts to consider:

### **Various Positions Christians May Take on the Subject of Political Involvement**

#### **1. The “Christians Shouldn’t Be Involved” model –**

Many Christians have the attitude that politics or government is not an area that we should get involved in. They espouse a ‘secular/sacred divide’, in which they believe that the Church should only deal with spiritual issues and not get involved in the world of secular or worldly dealings.

#### **2. The “Society is not worth redeeming” model –**

One prime proponent of this was Joel Carpenter who said “Until Jesus come for us Bible-believing Christians were to win the lost, heed the signs of the times, keep themselves pure from error, and expose and condemn false religion”. That sounds ‘spiritual’, but its undertones are that the world is too evil and we should just be focused on keeping clean from the world and not get too involved.

#### **3. The “Political structures can’t change the human heart” model –**

This model suggests that we should not get involved in politics or try to ‘run the world’. We are just citizens of

heaven and should have no earthly allegiance. We should just form an alternate community (church) and try to be so attractive that the world will want to join us. Since government cannot truly change someone’s heart we should just focus on what we think will.

#### **4. The “Christianity is only about the institution of the church and is not relevant to civil government” model**

This is a classic ‘two-kingdoms’ model. They believe the bible, to them, is only relevant to the life of the church not to civil government. It’s just the gospel that we should be active in and not trying to push our worldview on others.

#### **5. The “Christians should be involved, and we should try to take over” model –**

This is an aggressive power focus that we should take control and dictate the Biblical pattern for all people. These adherents are enthusiastic, but it often comes across as shaming, mean spirited and judgmental.

### **6. The “Christians should be salt & light” model**

Now just in case if you’re wondering, all the above Five Models, I believe are inappropriate and not biblical sound.

The scriptures are clear in **Matthew 5:13-16**... <sup>13</sup> ***“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.”*** <sup>14</sup> ***“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.”*** <sup>15</sup> ***Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its***

*stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

These words are from Jesus Himself, and when you combine that with passages about Loving God, and Loving One Another and many, many others...It is clear that God wants us to be involved in Politics & Government in a way that reflects the Image of Christ in us, brings glory to God, and brings about the welfare and protection of all people.

God set the concept of Government from the very beginning of creation, and He delegated and commanded us to join Him in extending His Kingdom and His will in all aspects of life. We cannot bury our heads in the sand, nor be a critical voice from the sidelines...we must engage with love, wisdom and passion to bring about God's will and purpose in everything.

David Closson states

“Because government and its laws are an inextricable part of our lives, there is no way to avoid some level of involvement. This is true for Christians, who, though “sojourners and exiles” (1 Peter 2:11) in this world, are nevertheless citizens of the “City of Man” as well as the “City of God.” Christians ought to endeavor to be good citizens of both cities and leverage their influence for the advancement of laws, policies, and practices that contribute to the flourishing of our neighbors”.

Where do we start...

**2 Chronicles 7:14** ...*If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

**It starts with** Christians getting in Right Relationship With God, so that we can then seek to be in Right Relationship with One Another.

In two weeks on October 3, we will have a Prayer Service for our Morning Worship where we will cry out to God for His Healing Hand on us and our nation.

**For now, lets choose to be  
Salt & Light,  
Let's Walk in truth & Walk in Love**

**We, as the Church, with God's Power can be a Change  
Agent To Bring About God's Will**