



Today we continue with Part B of the Worldview Puzzle
Piece No. 9 – **POLITICS**

POLITICS DEFINED

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 - the concept of loving one’s neighbor.” (Closson, p. 4)

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

The “Christians Should Be Salt & Light” model

Matthew 5:13-16... ¹³ “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.¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.¹⁵ 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.¹⁶ let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

The Biblical Worldview Position On Christians and Political Involvement

Last week we focused on the biblical foundations and the WHY, of Political Involvement.

In summary, we are to be involved in Politics because from the very beginning of creation, God establish a governing system in order to provide for the welfare of man and the created world. That system includes God’s call to have dominion and to care for people, animals, plant life and all of the earth’s resources. The proper understanding of man’s delegated governing and dominion is best described by these principles ...

watch care, guidance, overseer, stewardship.

God chose to include us as partners in the governing and care of His creation. (Gen. 1:28-30). Politics is an essential part of applying the Biblical Principles to our everyday life and in securing a safe and productive society.

In this proper understanding Politics, we see it as an integral part of God’s Kingdom building process and therefore, should be of great importance for Biblical Worldview Christians.

**With that foundation settled let’s look today
HOW WE SHOULD BE INVOLVED!**

Some of today’s sermon is based upon:

**For the Health of the Nation:
An Evangelical Call to Civic Responsibility**

A resource of the National Association of Evangelicals
The mission of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) is to honor God by connecting and representing evangelical Christians. Founded in 1942, the association represents more than 45,000 local churches from 40 denominations and serves a constituency of millions. For more information about the NAE, visit **NAE.net**.

The original version of “For the Health of the Nation” was adopted by the NAE Board of Directors on October 7, 2004. Along with board resolutions, “For the Health of the Nation” serves as the platform for NAE’s government relations work. For more information on “For the Health of the Nation,” visit NAE.net/forthehealth. Please feel free to go to this site and read the entire document for a more thorough study.

How Should We Engage As Christians In Politics

For the Health of the Nation: An Evangelical Call to Civic Responsibility

You may remember last week that I mentioned these summary responsibilities from the Apostle Paul 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/>

In my previous message on July 4, 2021 under the Puzzle Piece of Sociology I gave these things we can and should be doing in regards to Government/Politics:

A. Pray For Your Government and Leaders

1 Tim. 2:1-4...I urge then first of all that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.

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

B. Participate in Selecting Godly Government Leaders

Proverbs 29:2...When the godly are in authority, the people rejoice. But when the wicked are in power, they groan.

1. Be informed on the issues.
2. Study the party platform statements.
3. Know what the candidates stand for.
4. Check out the candidate’s website.
5. Learn about their friends and their enemies.
6. Weigh the candidates’ values against biblical values.
7. Prayerfully choose the ones who most closely match up with your values.

C. Support and Obey Your Government and Leaders

Romans 13:6,7...This is why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing Give everyone what you owe him... if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

D. Be Willing to Prayerfully, Wisely, Reasonably and Confidently Oppose Any Openly Evil Actions of Government and Leaders

Four Summary Words for these would be

PRAY

VOTE

SUPPORT

ACCOUNTABILITY

With that brief review let's look into some very specific and vital ways

HOW WE AS BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN POLITICS:

Adapted from : For the Health of the Nation: An Evangelical Call to Civic Responsibility. National Association of Evangelicals

- 1. By Faithfully Protecting Religious Freedom and Liberty of Conscience for All People**
- 2. By Intentionally Safeguarding the Nature and Sanctity of Human Life**
- 3. By Promoting Peace and Restraining Violence**
- 4. By Fairly Preserving Human Rights, Racial Justice and Seeking Biblical Reconciliation**
- 5. By Deliberately Seeking Justice and Compassion for the Poor and Vulnerable**
- 6. By Consistently Strengthening Marriages, Families and Children**
- 7. By Wisely Caring for God's Creation**

1. By Faithfully Protecting Religious Freedom and Liberty of Conscience for All People

The 1st Amendment of the US Constitution states:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances”.

One of the key ways that we as Christians can be involved is to hold our governing leaders and politicians to uphold and honor the right to religious freedom and expression. This means also, that we should not allow government to require people to put aside their religious beliefs when they interact in the public sector. We must insist that all people have their freedom of worship. In a pluralistic society that we as Americans live in, that also means that we do not force our faith on others, and allow them their freedom as well. But this pluralism does not mean that we compromise our Biblical convictions.

2. By Intentionally Safeguarding the Nature and Sanctity of Human Life

Listen to this quote from the publication ‘For the Health of the Nation’:

“Because God created human beings in his image, every human life from conception to death bears the image of God and has inestimable worth (Genesis 1:27). Therefore, Christians must be committed to a consistent ethic of life that safeguards the essential nature of human life at all stages, with a special concern to protect the lives of the most vulnerable. The unborn, the very young, the aged, those living in poverty, the chronically or terminally ill, those with disabilities and those with genetic diseases deserve our particular care and protection. Our public policy agenda should reflect these broad commitments. Abortion is the most familiar assault on the sanctity of human life. The Bible reveals God's calling and care for persons before they are born (Psalm 139:13), and each life lost is a unique creation made in God's image who might have blessed our society in extraordinary ways”. (Health of the Nation, p. 25)

All life is precious, and all people are Made in the Image of God; thus we should insist and encourage our political governing leaders to recognize that and enact laws and policies in line with that Biblical precept.

3. By Promoting Peace and Restraining Violence

One of the key responsibilities that God has laid out in the Bible is that of security, order and protection of life and property.

As Christians we should respect the rights of others and act in ways that do not bring harm on others. We should insist that our governing leaders provide for a fair, just and ongoing protection against violence and to restrain and punish evil and violence.

Listen to these words from the Preamble to the US Constitution:

“We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America”.

4. By Fairly Preserving Human Rights, Racial Justice and Seeking Biblical Reconciliation

This is a quote from “For the Health of the Nation. P. 37)
“While it is not the primary role of governments to provide everything that humans need for their well-being, they must provide for the general welfare and promote the common good. Governments are also obligated to ensure that people are not unjustly deprived of their inalienable rights and fair opportunities to meet their needs. Governments

can play a significant role in convening private institutions to work together to promote human welfare”.

We must remind and hold accountable our governing leaders that fact that all people are made in the Image of God and are equal in value. We must encourage just, fair and non-prejudicial treatment for all people.

5. By Deliberately Seeking Justice and Compassion for the Poor and Vulnerable

God has assigned to governing powers the responsibility and care for the poor and the vulnerable. Jesus summed It up in what we call the Great Commandment when He said to Love God and Love your neighbor. The Parable of the Good Samaritan adds to this concept.

The Old Testament is full of governing instructions on this matter.

Psalm 82:3–4... “Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

Proverbs 22:22–23... “Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court, for the Lord will take up their case and will exact life for life.”

Leviticus 25:35–36... “If any of your fellow Israelites become poor and are unable to support themselves among you, help them as you would a foreigner and stranger, so they can continue to live among you. Do not take interest or any profit from them, but fear your God, so that they may continue to live among you.”

We must insure that our politicians enact laws and protections for vulnerable people.

6. By Consistently Strengthening Marriages, Families and Children

In the very first chapters of Genesis, we see that God established the family, home and marriage as the bedrock of His plan for building a godly society. The family and marriage has been under attack by ungodly forces in America for a long time. We must insist that our political leaders honor and uphold the sanctity of Marriage and the family.

The article For the Health of the Nation states this as a key action for Christians:

“We commit ourselves to work for laws that protect and foster family life. Violations of the integrity of the family threaten public order. In order to strengthen the family, we must promote biblical moral principles, responsible personal choices and wise public policies”. (p.30)

7. By Wisely Caring for God’s Creation

Genesis 2:15-17,20...¹⁵ *Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to CULTIVATE/WORK (abad) it and KEEP/TEND (shamar) it.*

- **05647** עָבַד *abad*...WORK, serve, bondage, cultivate, keep, labor, perform, till, worship (290x)
- **08104** שָׁמַר *shamar*...KEEP, watch, preserve, attend, defend, doorkeeper, guard, care for, Maintain, observe, protect, regard, secure, (468x)

Key Principle: Responsible Stewardship

It is God’s will and plan for us to work, cultivate, maintain, and protect the environment and planet resources. When we do, we bring glory to God as an act of Worship. We can extend that to all forms of honest work and labor as acts of worship that fulfill God’s command and His will. We are to be good stewards and managers of God’s creation.

As Biblical Worldview Christians it is our responsibility and privilege to care and tend for the world that God created. It is an act of worship. We must insist that our politicians enact laws, regulations and enforcement of those laws, in order to protect the world that God created and gave to us as a stewardship. It is a Christian responsibility.

“Just as we show our love for the Savior by reaching the lost, we show our love for the Creator by caring for His creation”. (For the Nations, p. 51)

I want to close with this extended quote from page 53 of the NAE publication “For the Nations”

“We call on all Christians to be truthful in their dialogue, to be civil in their tone both in personal conversation and on social media, to become informed and to vote, as they regularly communicate biblical values to their community and government representatives. We urge all Christians to take their civic responsibility seriously even when they are not fulltime political activists so that they might more adequately call those in government to their task. We also encourage our children to consider vocations in public service.

We encourage those who engage in political and social action to do so in a manner consistent with biblical teachings. That means, among other things, that all our political activity must reflect honesty, civility and respect for opponents. We also call on Christian leaders in public office or with expertise in public policy and political life to help us deepen our understanding so that we might better fulfill our civic duties.

We call churches and ministries to cultivate commitment to public justice among their members. Seminaries and Christian colleges have a special obligation to instill in future leaders a sense of civic responsibility. We call all Christians to a political engagement that aims to protect the vulnerable and poor, to guard the sanctity of human life, to further racial reconciliation and justice, to strengthen family life, to care for creation, and to promote justice, freedom and peace for all.

We commit ourselves to regular prayer for those who govern, that God may prosper their efforts to nurture life, justice, freedom and peace”. (NAE. p. 53)

We as Christians need to get in Right Relationship With God, so that we can then seek to be in Right Relationship with One Another.

**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

What Do We Do Now?

