

The 'Ekklesia'

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- I. **The Churches / most Pastors belief: the Church isn't supposed to be involved in politics.**
- A. **Before I answer that let me re-emphasize - I'm looking at:**
- > **Righteousness vs. Wickedness.**
 - > **Godly Rule vs. Lawlessness.**

 - > **I'm not looking just at Politics / Government, I'm looking at the other 6 mountains also. (Religion, Family, Media, Education, Arts & Entertainment, Business).**
- B. **Legally: "Guidelines for Political Activities by Churches and Pastors". (Handout)**
- C. **But let me ask this: where does the Bible say that the church should not be involved in any of the 7 Social Mountains - including Government?**
1. **Scripturally: we should be influencing and overseeing all of the other 6 Social Mountains - including our Government.**
 2. **Has the Christian Church so thoroughly bought into the twisting of Thomas Jefferson's statement about the separation of church and state - that we have been rendered powerless??**
- D. **Founding Fathers and Government / Politics**
1. **29 of the 56 signers had the equivalent of today's Bible school/seminary education according to David Barton of 'Wallbuilders'.**
 2. **Virtually all of the others attended orthodox Christian churches (Quaker, Congregationalist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, etc).**
 3. **Even the two who were considered to be the most irreligious: Jefferson & Franklin, both were extremely Biblically literate and considered themselves to be followers of Christ or, at the very least, followers of Christ's teachings.**
- E. **I believe our Founding Fathers would disagree with the statement: the Church isn't supposed to be involved in politics.**

II. We are called the 'Church'. (What does that mean??)

A. Greek word: Ekklesia (NT Greek word translated church in KJV and most other translations).

1. What is a Church? Or Who is the Church?

B. Ekklesia.

1. Strong's Concordance > Definition:

G1577 - Church (Ekklesia)

"from a compound of 1537 and a derivative of 2564; a calling out, i.e. (concretely) a popular meeting, especially a religious congregation (Jewish synagogue, or Christian community of members on earth or saints in heaven or both):--assembly, church.

C. Minnesota Apostolic Prayer Network definition: (appealtoheaven.org)

AN APPEAL TO HEAVEN



appealtoheaven.org

"EKKLESIA: an assembly of those called out and responsible for declaring war, planning military strategy, and electing those to lead in war and other officials. It was responsible for nominating and electing magistrates, it had the final say on legislation and the right to call magistrates to account after their term of office."

1. Where would they get that definition?

2. It's actually correct.

> It ties back into the Ekklesia of Athens in Greece.

> There's a huge amount of history behind the word that God chose to use to describe this group of people he called the church.

3. An awesome source for this history is:

D. Rick Renner: "A Light in Darkness". (Pg. 264ff)

(The information presented below are excerpts from the book: "A Light in Darkness")

Rick Renner is one of the foremost Greek Scholars of our Day, and of our Century.

1. He says the word "church" comes from 2 words in the Greek:

2. Gr. > 'Ek' and 'Kaleo'.

a. 'Ek' - "Those who are called out".

b. 'Kaleo' - "It is often used to convey the idea of an invitation that isn't made available to everyone else. Because everyone isn't invited, those who are should view the invitation as a privilege and a prestigious honor to be appreciated, treasured, prized, and revered".

3. Kaleo is used this way 148 times in the New Testament.

a. Examples: Matthew 22:2-10

> Invitation to the Wedding Banquet.

Luke 14:17-24.

> Invitation to the Great Banquet.

4. 'Ekklesia'

- a. "The earliest use of the word was in ancient Athens, where it was used only in a political context. It was still being used this way when the N.T. was being written."
- b. It is a historical, political, and judicial word.
- c. "In Classical Greece, the word Ekklesia denoted an assembly of citizens who were invited to participate in a closed assembly in Athens. At this assembly, a variety of political functions were performed:
 - Laws were created.
 - Governmental decisions were debated.
 - Policies affecting both internal and external affairs were formulated.
 - Key judicial cases were decided.
 - Customs and cultural norms were adapted and changed.
 - Officials were appointed.
 - State decisions were proclaimed.
 - The chief magistrates of the land were elected.
- d. "Every Athenian citizen was invited to attend the meeting and participate in this ruling body, regardless of his class or status in society; however, only citizens could attend. Delegates were 'called out' from their private lives and 'summoned' to take their seats in this distinguished assembly. In many respect, the Athenian Ekklesia was considered the most prestigious group of people in the land, and people counted it a great privilege and honor to participate in this illustrious body. It's decisions were so far-reaching that they affected every aspect of public and private life. The meetings of the Athenian Ekklesia were conducted 30 to 40 times a year."
- e. "It is worth noting that political parties and factions were strictly forbidden in this respected assembly. It was a body of equal citizens with equal voices who gathered to assist in the orderly development of society. Thus, the idea that such an illustrious group could degenerate into a group of contentious factions was an intolerable prospect. There was simply too much prestige attributed to the

Ekklesia for Athenian citizens to allow its meetings to deteriorate into ugly fights and divisions."

5. A "Kerux"

"A herald (Kerux) made proclamations at the Ekklesia meetings, which included the following responsibilities:

- Summoning the citizens of Athens to the Pnyx when it was time to conduct an Ekklesia meeting.
- Opening and closing each session.
- Maintaining order and providing oversight to the assembly.
- Bringing correction to members who were out of order.
- Publicizing the final decisions of the assembly and its leadership.
- Calling soldiers to battle in times of war.

"The Kerux was a chosen spokesman for a higher Authority. Consequently, the Kerux didn't have the authority to negotiate or mitigate issues; rather, his role was to be his superior's voice and to speak on behalf of his sender. The Kerux was to lift his voice loud and clear and to accurately deliver the message that had been entrusted to him, regardless of the crowd's response."

- a. "The word Kerux is the same term used in the New Testament to describe a preacher's responsibility to proclaim the Word of God. In 2 Timothy 4:2, where Paul admonishes Timothy to "preach the word", the word translated "preach" is derived from the Greek word Kerux. _____ Paul used this word in reference to the task of a pastor or preacher to speak on behalf of Christ and to accurately represent Him. The minister doesn't have the authority to mitigate the truth or to change the message to satisfy his listeners. Regardless of the people's response, the pastor or preacher must lift his voice loud enough to make the Lord's message clearly heard and to accurately deliver the truth entrusted to him by Jesus Christ."
- b. "As citizens of God's Kingdom, all believers have the right to participate in the affairs and the life of their church - a right that is at once a joyful privilege, a profound honor, and a sober responsibility. Just as the

Athenian Ekklesia ruled in matters of law, business, society, customs, culture, and judicial matters, God calls upon a local church to exert its influence in every arena of the society in which it exists."

- c. "Many make reference to the universal Church, and certainly there is a universal Church. (1 Cor. 10:32; Eph. 3:10, 11; 5:23-32). Universal (was) used as an early declaration that the Church at large includes all those who have received Jesus Christ as their Savior.

However, in Paul's writings and in the book of Acts, the word Ekklesia most often refers to a visible church located in a real geographical location. There are many New Testament examples of this, such as: (1 Cor. 1:2; 2 Cor. 1:1). The New Testament mentions such churches in many cities including Antioch, Assos, Colassae, Derbe, Didyma, Ephesus, Hierapolis, Iconium, Jerusalem, Laodicea, Lystra, Melitus, Perga, Pergamum, Philadelphia, Philippi, Pisidia Antioch, Rome, Sardis, Smyrna, Thessalonica, Thyatira, and Troas.

In each city where a church was located, that local church became God's Ekklesia - a body of individuals whom God had called forth to assemble together and further His Kingdom in the hearts of people and in every arena of life."

- d. "The use of the word Ekklesia tells us that it was never God's intention for the local church to be a small group of silent, unnoticed people who gather to quietly discuss religious affairs. This power-packed Greek word clearly tells us that God's original intent was that each local church would have a voice of influence both in private and public life.

Just as the Athenian Ekklesia was a key component in the development of democracy that eventually impacted the entire civilized world, the Lord intends for local churches to have a powerful impact on society. Thus, the scriptural concept of the word Ekklesia can be described as a body of believers who are called out of darkness into light to become citizens of Heaven and to apply God's laws in the affairs of the earth. To be called as members of such a distinguished body is both an honor and a privilege."

III. Where are the Believers / Pastors / Churches / Denominations in the struggles society is facing?

A. Why aren't we doing our God-given responsibility?

B. We are called by God to be the resistance to Evil and Lawlessness.

2 Thessalonians 2:4-8 (AMP)

[4] Who opposes and exalts himself so proudly and insolently against and over all that is called God or that is worshiped, [even to his actually] taking his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming that he himself is God. [Eze 28:2; Da 11:36,37.]

[5] Do you not recollect that when I was still with you, I told you these things?

[6] And now you know what is restraining him [from being revealed at this time]; it is so that he may be manifested (revealed) in his own [appointed] time.

[7] For the mystery of lawlessness (that hidden principle of rebellion against constituted authority) is already at work in the world, [but it is] restrained only until he who restrains is taken out of the way.

[8] And then the lawless one (the antichrist) will be revealed and the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of His mouth and bring him to an end by His appearing at His coming. [Isa 11:4.]

C. Many of President Biden's Mandates are:

#1). Unconstitutional.

#2). Unscriptural.

- ALL THAT IS NEEDED for this country to continue its descent into destruction is > YOU AND I DO NOTHING.



Guidelines for “Political Activities” by Churches and Pastors

The following legal overview and guidelines summarize the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code as they apply to churches and pastors.¹ We encourage you to share them with your colleagues. As guidelines, they may not address every situation that you face and should not be construed as legal advice.² Churches and pastors, however, may request legal advice free of charge regarding a particular situation by contacting Alliance Defending Freedom at 1-800-835-5233 or www.AllianceDefendingFreedom.org.

<i>Political Activity</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Pastor³</i>
1. Discuss the positions of candidates on issues	Yes	Yes
2. Endorse or oppose candidates	No	Yes
3. Financial contributions to candidates	No	Yes
4. In-kind contributions to candidates	No	Yes
5. Independent expenditures supporting or opposing candidates	No	Yes
6. Contributions to political action committees (PACs)	No	Yes
7. Payment of expenses for attendance at a caucus or state/national political party convention	No	Yes

¹ Although churches are subject to the rules of the Federal Election Campaign Act (“FECA”) as well as those of the Internal Revenue Code (“IRC”), FECA generally does not impact churches. Because the IRS has concluded that section 501(c)(3) absolutely prohibits any political campaign activity, activities regulated under FECA are already prohibited by the IRC.

² Particularly, state laws may be more restrictive than these guidelines, and therefore, in applying them to specific situations regarding state candidates or state elections, an attorney should be consulted.

³ Acting as an individual rather than an official church representative. Pastors and priests, acting as individuals and not as official church representatives, have the same rights as all other American citizens to involve themselves in political activity. Therefore, they have much greater latitude in this area than do churches.



<i>Political Activity</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Pastor</i>
8. Appearance of candidate at church meeting or service	Yes	N/A
9. Non-partisan voter registration activities	Yes	Yes
10. Non-partisan voter identification activities	Yes	Yes
11. Non-partisan get-out-the-vote activities	Yes	Yes
12. Non-partisan voter education	Yes	Yes
13. Lobbying for or against legislation	Yes	Yes
14. Expenditures related to state referendums ⁴	Yes	Yes
15. Distribution of:		
a. Candidate surveys or voter guides	Yes	Yes
b. Voting records of incumbents	Yes	Yes
c. Candidate campaign literature	No	Yes
16. Distribution by others of political materials in church parking lots	Yes	N/A
17. Rental of church membership lists at regular rates	Yes	N/A
18. Rental of church facilities at regular rates	Yes	N/A
19. Church publications:		
a. Political ads at regular rates	Yes	N/A
b. News stories about candidates or campaigns	Yes	N/A
c. Editorials endorsing or opposing candidates	No	N/A

⁴ Lobbying activities may expose churches in some states to election law register and reporting requirements as a political committee. Many of these statutes are unconstitutional because they expose churches to intrusive regulations for a very small amount of lobbying. If you find your church exposed to such state election law requirements, contact Alliance Defending Freedom immediately so an attorney can review your situation.