

God is Global: Politics

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Michael McConnell, A Christian Author on God and Politics, has referred us as having "citizenship ambiguity," the idea that we are citizens both of the cities of God and Man, never quite at home in the latter and longing to see the fulfillment of the former.

Matthew 22:17 Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" 18 But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? 19 Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, 20 and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?" 21 "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." 22 When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

The clear distinction between Church and State

Brian T. McGraw, a Christian View of Politics

When church leaders become political leaders, it seems pretty clear to me, those who desire political power will seek to become church leaders, often to the detriment of their putative spiritual vocation.

A separation is necessary for the _____ of the Gospel

How about a _____ understanding?

Jesus in front of Pilate(John 19): "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given to you from above."

Romans 13: "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established."

We as Christians understand that _____ authorities, though they ought to be distinct from _____ authorities, are not themselves _____ of God's sovereign authority.

3 Views of Separation

I. _____

Separationism- has the tendency to make the things we owe Caesar (Matt 22), like politics, entirely independent of what we owe God.

The World usually implies politics, economics, science, technology, and mass media

The Christian life (or Church) is defined by _____ holiness, to _____ activities, to family _____ and Bible study.

Biblically, this dualistic distinction between church and world, between the sacred and the secular, is _____. It runs counter a proper view of God's sovereignty.

Why?

1. Christ is _____ of the whole world, over every part of creation.

2. And the body of Christ is a community that _____ without wholeheartedly living out of the Spirit of Christ, as branches living in the vine, which is Christ.

Why would we reject Separationism?

1. Separationism _____ politics ~~way~~ ^{away} from God's sovereignty.

2. Separationism not only divides away God's sovereignty, but it also seems to rob us of the real _____ for detecting and getting rid of injustice from our government. To be Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13-16) to the culture around us.

3. Separationism neglects the ways in which we as the Church can be deeply shaped by the surrounding culture. By claiming separation you fail to see the intrinsic synchronization of the church's _____ with cultures morals, and fail to view those changes scripturally.

2. _____ View.:

The Constantinian view suggests that though political authority is distinct from religious authority and though it does not have a direct role in securing our salvation, it does have an important indirect role, namely, the setting of social conditions such that the Church can fulfill its mission.

Main Danger is of becoming a church of _____, removing the true Gospel and losing our Commission to bring that gospel to the world.

3. The _____ View-

Romans 13-

1Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

2Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 3For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. 4For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. 5Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. 6This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. 7Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

In the Pauline View: The state has a purpose the _____ of the wrongdoer and _____ good deeds.

How do we get involved?

1. _____! 1Timothy 2:1-4.

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

2. _____! **Why?**

A. God is _____ with the election of ungodly leadership

(Hosea 8:4- 4 They set up kings without my consent; they choose princes without my approval. With their silver and gold they make idols for themselves to their own destruction.)

B. It is _____ to us from our government as our civil duty. Scripture gives Christians instructions to _____ legitimate authority, unless it contradicts the Lord's commands

(Acts 5:27-29 27- Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. 28 "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood." 29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!")

C. The leaders we elect – or do nothing to remove – have great influence on our freedoms. Neglecting our given right to choose our own leaders is to let the _____ in our nation.

(James 4:17 Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.)

How should a _____ respond to politics?

Our deep _____ to Jesus Christ should work its way out in the way we seek to obey God with all the political responsibilities as public officials and as citizens.

What Should Christian Politics look like?

1. Christian politics must be _____ and comprehensive.

Christians need to identify which issues are _____ handed and those that are _____ handed. The Bible does not endorse low taxes, all it says is that we are to pay our taxes honestly (Romans 13:6-7- This is also 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 you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.)

Issues we should take sides on...

Abortion

Gay marriage.

Respect and Honor our Leaders.

Against Global atrocities and domestic injustice

2. Christian views of Laws, which approve good actions and punish evil actions and should apply to _____ equally. (Matthew 5:44)

3. Christian politics will operate with the understanding that _____, not government is the _____ sovereign over all of life. (John 19)

4. Christian's should work together as citizens of _____, seeking justice internationally for the benefit of all creatures.

We don't define ourselves as Nationalist but as Kingdomist