

**CANDIDATES FROM GOD:
SHOULD THE CHURCH BE FULLY INVOLVED
OR STAY OUT OF IT COMPLETELY?**



Is it time for the Church to Change?

Series Purpose:

We are confronting increasingly significant cultural issues that are challenging our experience and expression of our faith in God.

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How would Jesus have us respond?

What response best displays God's character?

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Colossians 4:5-6

⁵ Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Today: Politics – The Division

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Conservatives – Believe they are promoting the American ideal and liberals are betraying it.

Liberals – Believe they are promoting the American ideal and conservatives are betraying it.

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Policy and Character

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My concern:

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My concern:

- **Degree of intensity**

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My concern:

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- **Lack of ability/willingness to respect other's perspective**

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Policy and Character

My concern:

- Degree of intensity
- Lack of ability/willingness to respect other's perspective
- **Extraordinary divisiveness**

How would Jesus have us interact
with politics, our government?

What is the response that brings
God the most glory?

“Freedom of Religion”

United States founded by folks fleeing from countries where the government controlled and directed religion.

“Separation of Church and State”

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- Was wrestled with by our founders.

1636 - Roger Williams, founder of Rhode Island, was the first public official we know of that used “Separation” as a metaphor.

He wrote, there needs to be “a hedge or wall of Separation between the Garden of the Church and the Wilderness of the World.” Williams believed that any government involvement in the church would corrupt the church, and governmental pressure to Christianity was not pleasing to God. “Forced worship stinks in God’s nostrils.”

1789 - Constitution - Amendment # 1

“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.”

January 1, 1802 - President Thomas Jefferson's letter to the Danbury Baptist Association

“Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between Man & his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legitimate powers of government reach actions only, & not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared

that their legislature should “make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,” thus building a wall of separation between Church & State. Adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend to restore to man all his natural rights, convinced he has no natural right in opposition to his social duties.”

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Evangelical **FREE** Church of America

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 - **Christians should not promote views**

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 - **Atheists**

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 - Christians
 - Atheists
 - **Anyone**

“The separation of church and state is a source of strength, but the conscience of our nation does not call for separation between men of state and faith in the Supreme Being.”

- Lyndon B. Johnson

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- Impossible to separate our religious views from our politics.
- As citizens of the United States we have all the rights that come with being a citizen.
- **Though Constitution does not mention God, “God” is referenced directly in the Declaration of Independence, Pledge of Allegiance, US currency, and every State Constitution.**

How would Jesus have us interact
with politics, our government?

What is the response that brings
God the most glory?

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Apostle Paul – “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgement.

God has ordained a role for government.

For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad, Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.

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For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.”
(Romans 13:1-7)

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- Civil authorities are to promote a civil society.
- **We are to participate in our civil society.**

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2 Extremes:

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Complete
Passivity

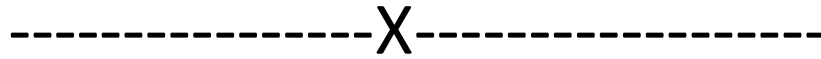
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What we ought to avoid:

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- **Making formal corporate connections with any political party or candidate.**

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- **Expressing non-Christ like behavior in any interaction.**

What we should be focusing on:

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- **Prayerfully considering running for office or working directly in government.**

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- **Living every day with the confidence that one day Jesus will rule all.**

Takeaways:

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- **Be informed**

Takeaways:

- Be informed
- **Be involved**

Takeaways:

- Be informed
- Be involved
- **Be nice**

Takeaways:

- Be informed
- Be involved
- Be nice
- **Never take our eyes off of Jesus**