

DUAL CITIZENSHIP

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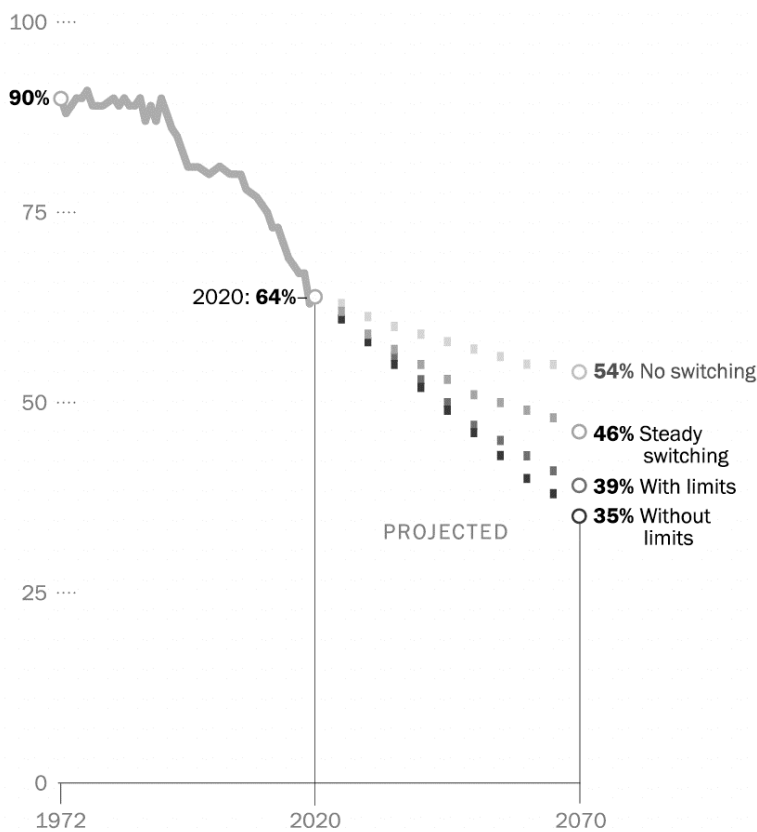
CHRISTIAN APPROACH TO CULTURE

Post-Christian

Christian faith no longer in the majority; Biblical Literacy on a decline. No shared values or morality.

U.S. Christians projected to fall below 50% of population if recent trends continue

% of Americans who are Christian



Scenarios

- No switching**
This scenario imagines no person in America has changed or will change their religion after 2020.
- Steady switching**
Movement into and out of Christianity remains stable at recently observed rates. That is, in each new generation, 31% of Christians become religiously unaffiliated before they turn 30, and 21% of unaffiliated people become Christian.
- Rising disaffiliation with limits**
In each new generation, a growing share of Christians switch out before they turn 30, while a shrinking share of 'nones' switch in. But the switching rate is capped to prevent the share of Christians who leave the faith from rising above 50%.
- Rising disaffiliation without limits**
In each new generation, a growing share of Christians switch out before they turn 30, while a shrinking share of 'nones' switch in. No cap is imposed on switching rates.

Biblical Literacy

1. Less than 50% of Americans can name the first book of the Bible.
2. 82% of Americans believe, "God helps those that help themselves," is a Bible verse.



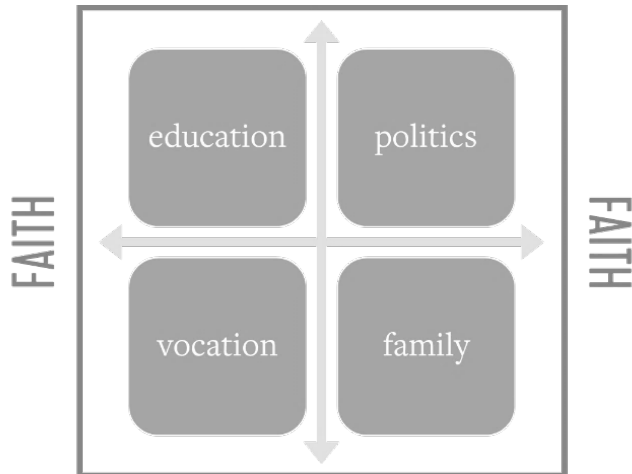
3. The most popular answer to who delivered the Sermon on the Mount is Billy Graham.
(only 2 out of 10 answered Jesus)
4. British parents
 - 30% didn't know Adam/Eve, David/Goliath or the parable of the Good Samaritan are in the Bible.
 - 1 in 3 believe Harry Potter is or might be a biblical story.
 - 54% believe the same about Hunger Games.

Current Culture

1. At best increasingly uneducated about the gospel and church; at worst is contentious toward both. [John 15:18-20]
2. No longer has a shared moral foundation to make personal or public decisions.
[2 Timothy 3:1-7]
3. What was once called sin is now considered common place. [Ephesians 4:17-19]
4. Our culture calls evil, good; and calls good, evil. [Isaiah 5:20]
5. Producing emotionally disabled individuals who reproduce more of the same in others.
[Matthew 7:17-18]
6. Pressing social issues on all sides (poverty, civil unrest, racial tension).

"But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth."

[2 Timothy 3:1-7]



Faith used to be integrated into every sphere of one’s life – family, government, community, etc. The current culture context, most people want nothing to do with faith in the public square and the church is seen as part of the problem and not the solution.

Culture is always changing; truth never changes.

Christians can show how God’s truth is infinitely better than anything Culture has to offer.

“The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of God stands forever.” [1 Peter 1:25]

Three different ways Christians Approach Culture

	EMBRACE	ESCAPE	EMBODY
	Embrace culture for relevance	Separate from culture	Embody Christ in culture
See Culture as	Place to find influence and affluence	Place to escape from	The place God called you to love
Safety is	Achieved by blending in	Achieved by hiding	Not important; Living out personal calling is
Focus on	How things aren’t that bad	How bad things are	How God is at work redeeming all things

1. Embrace Culture – Friends of The World are Enemies of God

“You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.” [James 4:4-5]

2. Escape Culture – Christianity is Not Escapist

“My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.” [John 17:15]

Jesus isn’t just about a ticket to heaven. He is also cares about all the things that lead up to it.

3. Embody Culture – Be a Living Epistle

- Jesus did not just teach creatively, he lived creatively.

“Your very lives are a letter that anyone can read by just looking at you. Christ himself wrote it—not with ink, but with God’s living Spirit; not chiseled into stone, but carved into human lives—and we publish it.” [2 Corinthians 3:3 (Message)]

- What sets us apart is the power of the Holy Spirit that lives in us - the power to heal people in body, soul and spirit.

“God’s purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.” [Ephesians 3:10]

“Creation has not been abandoned by God. Instead through Jesus, it will eventually be made new.

The church is a primary means to bring about this new creation. The church is a divinely commissioned community of people whose faithful efforts in the world even now matter, insofar as they proclaim and embody the redeeming and renewing power of the gospel.”

NEW CITY CATECHISM

Where is Christ's Domain?

1. The whole earth is full of his glory!" [Isaiah 6:3]
2. Christ has authority over this world. [Colossians 1:16-17]
3. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me..." [Matthew 28:18]
4. God desire to establish His will here on earth. [Matthew 6:10]
5. "If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!" [Psalm 139:8]

"There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is sovereign over-all, does not cry, 'Mine!'"

ABRAHAM KUYPER

God is Sovereign

"Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither... Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture."
[Psalm 37:1-3]

"He changes the times and seasons. He removes kings and establishes kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding." [Daniel 2:21]

CHRISTIANITY CHANGED THE WORLD

How Christianity Changed the World:

1. Sanctity of Human Life
2. Sexual Morality
3. Women receive freedom and dignity (Col. 4:15, I Cor 16:19, Romans 16:1-2)

4. Opposed Slavery
5. Charity and Compassion (Matthew 14:14, Phil 2:4)
6. Work and Economic Freedom

Jesus was an incredible reforming influence in the day he lived and Christians have a responsibility to bring significant influence in our present-day culture.

Christianity is More than a Religion, it is a Complete Worldview

1. The Christian worldview speaks to all areas of life.
 - Christianity has something to say not just about what to believe, but how people live their lives.
 - Discipleship is connecting Sunday faith to Monday reality.
2. Faith informs not just theology, but how to think about parenting, technology, sexuality, vocation, and even politics.
 - A frequently raised objection against Christian engagement with politics is that anything besides preaching and teaching of the Bible is a distraction from the mission of the church. However, this is a limited understanding of the kingdom of God.
 - The Christian worldview provides a comprehensive understanding of reality. It speaks to all areas of life, including political engagement. In fact, the Bible speaks often about the role of government, its leaders and even provides examples of faithful engagement. Both Joseph and Daniel served in civil government, exerting influence to further the flourishing of their nations. It's important to note that both these examples were brought to these nations as captives and slaves and yet they faithfully served these pagan kings and sought their prosperity.

“Christianity is Truth about total reality, not just about religious things.”

FRANCIS SCHAEFFER

Christians are to Seek the Welfare of the City – Example of Jeremiah

“This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”
[Jeremiah 29:4-7]

1. In seeking the welfare of their captors, they received their blessing.
2. God encourages engagement and collaboration, not rebellion or escapism; even when governed by those that do not share our faith.

You cannot change culture if you fail to change yourself.

Where do We Start Today with Changing the World?

1. What is good in our culture that we can promote, protect and celebrate?
2. What is missing in our culture that we can creatively contribute?
3. What is evil in our culture that we can stop?
4. What is broken in our culture that we can restore?

“Christians are to do their duty as best they can. But even when they feel that they are making no difference, that they are failing to bring Christian values to the public arena, success is not the criteria. Faithfulness is.”

CHUCK COLSON

DUAL CITIZENSHIP

Established in Genesis

1. From the beginning of the biblical account of human history, it is communicated that mankind is made of a combination of the dust of the earth and the spirit of life from God. [Genesis 2:7]
2. One nature allowed them to function in the garden and their other nature allowed them to relate to God.
3. When something goes wrong with one aspect, it also affects the other (The Fall in Genesis 3).

Dual Citizenship continued in the New Testament

“Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God...Fear God. Honor the emperor.”
[1 Peter 2:13-17]

“But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”
[Philippians 3:20]

“We are strangers and aliens.”
[Hebrews 1:13; 1 Peter 2:11]

Augustine’s book “City of God” offers guidance on this point. Believers are citizens of the “City of God”, but on this side of eternity, we also belong to the “City of Man” and therefore must be good citizens of both cities.

Paul’s appeal to his Roman Citizenship (Acts 16:37, 22:25) is a model of how membership in the earthly city can be leverage for furthering the reach of the heavenly.

Daniel in Babylon

1. In Daniel chapter 1, Daniel and his friends had their convictions challenged. How did he respond?
 - They humbly sought permission to not violate his personal purity code. [Daniel 1:8]
 - They recognized the authority of the official that was over him. [Daniel 1:8]
 - They courteously asked for an exemption from the king's food ('Please'). [Daniel 1:12]
 - They tactfully presented an alternative option. [Daniel 1:12]
 - They offered to defer to the final assessment of the official. [Daniel 1:13]
 - They made themselves accountable to the official. [Daniel 1:13]

2. In chapter 2 we see Daniel and his friends (Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah) in a crisis situation. Their lives were being threatened, but not for anything they had personally done. They exhibit the character traits of godly people under pressure.
 - They function when the world is irate. They keep their head and do not get paralyzed with fear. [Daniel 2:13-14]
 - They maintain discernment and discretion. [Daniel 2:14]
 - They inquire about the facts. [Daniel 2:15]
 - They are courageous. [Daniel 2:16]
 - They bring others into the situation for prayer and support. [Daniel 2:17]
 - They care about others in difficult times. [Daniel 2:18, 24, 49]
 - They are humble and won't take credit for what they cannot do. [Daniel 2:18, 26, 28, 30]
 - They honor God. [Daniel 2:29]
 - They are worshipers. [Daniel 2:19-20]
 - They are thankful. [Daniel 2:23]
 - They do not forget others after they are promoted. [Daniel 2:49]
 - Their lifestyle results in God receiving glory in the end. [Daniel 2:46-47]

3. In chapter 3, Daniel's friends face a situation involving civil disobedience. This is when the religious requirements of the three Hebrew youth came into direct conflict with that of Babylon.
 - They maintained their loyalty to God even when challenged several times. [Daniel 3:15]
 - They were respectful but consistent in their response to the king. [Daniel 3:16]

- They were confident in God’s ability. [Daniel 3:17]
 - They were willing to accept the consequences of their choice. [Daniel 3:18]
 - Their lives created opportunity for God to be praised. [Daniel 3:28-29]
 - They never let go of their trust in God. [Daniel 3:28]
4. In chapter 4, Daniel has an opportunity to speak personally to Nebuchadnezzar. He was called in to interpret the personal dreams of the king.
- He had a reputation of being a genuine spiritual person. [Daniel 4:9, 18]
 - He was negatively affected by the negative prophecy to the official over him. [Daniel 4:19]
 - He was genuinely caring of the king over him. [Daniel 4:19]
 - He was honest. [Daniel 4:22]
 - He was not afraid to acknowledge the importance of God. [Daniel 4:25-26]
 - He honestly confronted the iniquity of the king. [Daniel 4:27]
 - He placed requirements of the king. [Daniel 4:32]
 - His actions resulted in glory being given to God. [Daniel 4:34-37]
5. In chapter 6 we see the final challenge of faith listed in the book. Here, Daniel is pressured into a situation that would result in civil disobedience. Out of jealousy, certain officials try to discredit Daniel so that he would lose his high standing with the king.
- Daniel’s character was well known. [Daniel 6:3]
 - His opponents could find nothing in his work ethic or dealings that they could bring accusation against him. [Daniel 6:4]
 - A law was made that was opposed to Daniel’s normal religious practice. [Daniel 6:7]
 - The relationship between Daniel and the king made it difficult for the king to carry out the lawful punishment of Daniel. The king tried to find any way he could to suspend the sentence. [Daniel 6:14]
 - The outcome brought genuine concern by the king. [Daniel 6:16]
 - Daniel showed courtesy to the king. [Daniel 6:21]
 - The king brought swift judgement on those that condemned Daniel. [Daniel 6:24]
 - In the end the king gives glory to God. [Daniel 6:25-28]

Ultimately, Daniel’s influence came from his resolve to integrity.

“But Daniel resolved not to defile himself God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning.” [Daniel 1:8,17]

“Defile” = to make impure, contaminate, pollute, degrade in value, spoil

Example of Nehemiah

Nehemiah was a Jewish captive and served as the cupbearer to the king of Persia (1:11). In spite of his nationality, he moved into a very influential governmental position.

1. He was a man of prayer. [Nehemiah 2:4]
2. He risked his life daily for the wellbeing of the king. [Nehemiah 1:14]
3. He made requests based on whether he had earned the favor of the king. [Nehemiah 2:5]
4. He adjusted his life to the requests of the king. [Nehemiah 2:6]
5. He acquired necessary information before he designed his plan. [Nehemiah 2:1-16]
6. He understood that the hand of God was on his life. [Nehemiah 2:8, 18]
7. He knew had to face opposition. [Nehemiah 2:10]
8. He let nothing deter him from his mission [Nehemiah 6:3]

Priestly Prayer of Jesus (Night before being Crucified)

“I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.” [John 17:11-15]

1. Jesus came to live in this world, but He was not of the world.
2. Jesus references the same dualistic lifestyle of His followers. Like him, they are in the world and yet at the same time, they are not of the world.
3. The Holy Spirit will give them the ability to function in two realms.

Religious Groups in the New Testaments

1. Essene – separating from the world
2. Pharisee - committed to mere moralism or merit-based righteousness
3. Sadducee - attempting to cozy up to the powerful and use the current structures to enact plans
4. Zealot - attempting to overthrow the oppressor (Rome) and anyone that supported them in extreme and violent ways.

All fell short of bringing about the Kingdom of God.

The Essene, the Pharisee, the Zealot, and the Sadducee, each carried their own narrative or method about how to bring about the Kingdom of God. All fell short in a different way.

Jesus welcomed them all as followers

Jesus rarely spoke out against the political leaders of the day. He had more to say to the religious leadership. Jesus interacted with all these groups and welcomed all of them as followers.

GOVERNMENT WAS INSTITUTED BY GOD

God Made Institutions

FAMILY	CHURCH	GOVERNMENT
Genesis 1:26-28 Deuteronomy 6:4-7 Ephesians 5:21-6:4	Matthew 16:18 Matthew 28:19 2 Corinthians 10:3-6	1 Peter 2:13 Romans 13:1 1 Timothy 2:2-4
Be fruitful and multiply	Obey those that God puts over them	To create and uphold laws within God designed boundaries

Train children	Share the gospel / Make disciples	Punish those who break the rule of law
Rule over creation	Be a moral voice to society	Protect those who obey the rule of law

The Church has Mandate to Confront a Corrupt Culture

“The tools of our trade aren’t for marketing or manipulation, but they are for demolishing that entire massively corrupt culture. We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ. Our tools are ready at hand for clearing the ground of every obstruction and building lives of obedience into maturity.” [2 Corinthians 10:3-6 (MESSAGE)]

King Uzzia & The Priests (2 Chronicles 26)

1. Priests had the authority to confront and judge the king.
2. They courageously stepped into their role of authority; regardless of the consequences.

Romans 13

Paul was writing this epistle to the church in the capital city of the whole empire. The time of the writing of the epistle is about 56 CE. The ruler of the empire is Nero (54-68 CE). For a church to survive in that location it had to behave wisely. The edict of Claudius against the Jews in 49 CE shows that the Roman government would not tolerate a religion that was seen as a threat to their system.

“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For 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 you will be commended. For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. This is also why

you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor." [Romans 13:1-7]

1. "Every person" (every soul) (13:1)

The section is addressed to every person. It was written to all those living in the city of Rome. It was not limited to one class of people. The implication is that there were no exemptions to what will be said. There is no special privilege given to some so that they could ignore what was being said (NICNT). Neither infidel or saint is immune.

2. "Be subject to" (13:1)

This comes from the Greek work *hupotasso*, which means to arrange under or subjugate. This verb is a command (imperative mood). The readers are to place themselves in a submissive relationship to the authorities. The hearers are to submit themselves to another person's control. (Also used in verse 5.)

Self-subjection is seen in the passage as subjection to a God-ordained institution. That is why it says later that to resist the authority is to resist an ordinance of God. The passage offers no expressed qualifications or reservations to the responsibility (NICNT).

3. "Governing authorities" (13:1) (*huperecho exousia*) It describes those authorities that are superior in rank. It does not mention only certain authorities. "Every soul is to submit to the existing authorities. It does not say submit to the one we vote for or like. We submit to the ones that exist.

4. "There is no authority except from God" (13:1) All authority is from God. This is the declaration of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4:17 "God grants authority it to whomever he wishes". God sets whoever He wants in the positions, and no one can fend off His hand (Dan 4:35). Isaiah 10:5; 45:4-5 shows that God will ordain at times even wicked or pagan people to accomplish His will.

5. "Those that exist are established by God" (13:1). To the original readers of the epistle this was Rome, and specifically Nero. The verb established is in the perfect tense. These are governments that actually exist. Not just the ones we hoped might exist. It refers to the actual government.

6. “Resists” (13:2) comes from the word “antitasso”. It means to arrange against something, like an army that lines up against an opposing army to fight. It means to battle against.
- Later in the New Testament, when it talks about false teachers; it says one of their character traits is to “despise authority.” (2 Pet 2:10; Jude 1:8).
 - Paul wants the Roman Christians to know that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is not opposed to a properly functioning Roman government (Hendrickson).
 - It is important to remember that the Jews had been kicked out of Rome by emperor Claudius because of their contradictory responses to his policies. The Jewish people had a long history of not responding well to foreign authorities that ruled over them. [In just a few years after this is written, the Jews in Palestine would rebel against Rome again and it would lead to the destruction of Jerusalem.]
7. Those who oppose the government receive condemnation upon themselves (13:2). God sets certain things in place. To oppose that placement is to oppose God.
- God told Jeremiah for the people of Israel to surrender to Babylon when they attacked Jerusalem (Jer 27:12; 17).
 - For the leadership in Jerusalem at that time, Jeremiah’s word would have been seen as a treasonous thing to do. And yet it is what God said. His plan ran against any ideas of Jewish sovereign nationalism.
8. “For it is a servant of God to you” (13:4). Even thou government is often a secular social activity, it can be carrying out God’s purposes that have spiritual implications. “Servant” comes from the word diakonos. (This explains why God called Cyrus a “Messiah”.)
9. “For conscience sake” (13:5). Submission to authority must rest on a higher motivation than just that of escaping penal retribution. Avoiding wrath is legitimate, but it cannot be the only motivation that guides us. For a believer they must align themselves with God wherever possible. Any acts of rebellion have an effect on people’s conscience. A damaged conscience can have a drastic effect of a person’s relationship with God.

There are different reasons to submit to things.

- Romans 13:5 wrath and conscience’s sake
- Titus 2:5 that the Word is not dishonored
- Titus 2:9-10 so the doctrine of God is adorned

- Titus 3:1 because of the grace of God
- James 4:7 so we can resist the Devil.

We submit for reasons bigger than our own preferences.

10. "Taxes" (13:6) Taxation is a legitimate function of Government. The Jewish wars (66-73 CE) was a tax revolt.

Summary: Christian Worldview of Government

1. Government is an institution established by God to promote security, order and justice, protect the innocent, and secure the rights God has granted so people can flourish.
2. Government derives its authority from God and play a role in the work of God's kingdom on earth.
3. Rebelling against government is rebelling against God.

Role of Government

1. Provide Protection/Safety
 - Rails required on rooftops [Deuteronomy 22:8]
 - Protect innocent; maintain rights of afflicted [Psalm 82:2-4]
2. Protect Liberty [Exodus 20]
 - Ten Commandments created to protect those with less power from those with more power
 - Keep the Sabbath – worker rights
 - Honor parents – protect elderly
 - Shall not kill – protect weak from strong
 - Shall not bear false witness – how serious God takes justice
3. Promote Good [Romans 13:3]
 - Taxation – Paul says pay your taxes; even Jesus paid the temple tax
 - Social Welfare [Leviticus 25]

4. Punish Lawbreakers [Romans 13:4, I Peter 2:13-14]
 - Criminal Justice [Ecclesiastes 8:11]
 - Just War [Judges 2:16-8, I Samuel 17]
 - Individuals are forbidden to 'live by the sword' [Matthew 26:52]
 - Governments are commanded to "bear the sword" [Romans 13:4]
 - This is not a contradiction because God has established different roles for the individual and the state.

Government Leaders

1. Servants of God whether they believe in God or not [Nebuchadnezzar - Daniel 4:20-30]
2. Good Leaders [Jethro - Exodus 18]
 - Fear God
 - Are Trustworthy
 - Have Integrity
3. Good rulers influence people toward good conduct and bad leaders influence people toward bad conduct (OT History Kings).

Power in Scripture

1. Power is a gift. [Genesis 2]
2. Power is good. [Luke 10:19, Acts 1:8, Col 1:11, Luke 24:49]
3. Power is granted; not grasped. [Genesis 11]
4. Power must be tempered with Christian Values.
 - Servanthood [Mark 10:42-45]
Spend time among the less powerful.
Spend our power to helping the helpless.
 - Stewardship [1 Cor. 4:2, 1 Peter 4:10]
Treat power as a gift rather than an achievement.
Must reflect on our master well.

Does God Have a Design for a Form of Government?

1. Representative government
“Select capable men” [Exodus 18:19]
2. Decentralized authority
“thousands, hundreds, fifties, tens” [Exodus 18:21]
3. Delegated to the self-governed
“simple cases they can decide for themselves” [Exodus 18:22]

Even the best government structures can be corrupted by bad leaders.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

Christians Must Submit to Government Authority

“Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.” [Romans 13:2,5]

Christians Must Submit to God

“Submit to God.” [James 4:7]

“Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you.” [Job 22:21]

“Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.” [Matthew 22:21]

Civil Disobedience

1. Definition: the practice of resisting a government's unjust laws. [Titus 1:9]
2. Examples of civil disobedience in Scripture:
 - Egyptian Midwives [Exodus 1:15-21]
 - Moses' mother [Exodus 1-2]
 - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego [Daniel 3]
 - Daniel praying at window [Daniel 6]
 - Peter and John [Acts 5:29]
 - Wise Men [Matthew 2:8-12]

When is It Right to Disobey Government?

Christians obey government officials except:

1. If it contradicts a command/law from God.
(Peter and John, Prophet Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abendnego)
2. When it would result in loss of life.
(Midwives, Esther, Wise Men)

WRONG CULTURAL POSITIONS

"For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ." [Galatians 1:10 (ESV)]

Wrong Cultural Positions

1. Government should compel Religion
2. Government is evil and demonic
3. Do Evangelism; not politics (avoid politics)
4. Do Politics; not Evangelism (saved through activism)

5. Either/Or Framing of Issues - You can agree with a politician on one topic AND disagree with them on another

- Love and Truth
- Mercy and Justice
- God is transcendent enough to reside in both sides of the equation
- God is Lord of All Group of People

6. Approach Issues with Emotional Based Reasoning

- Over Simplifying – build theology around slogans
- Discounting Positives - Positives are trivialized to maintain a negative judgement
- Microaggressions - Offense based on small moments that translate to bias to an entire group.
- Dichotomous Thinking – people/ideas are all good or all bad
- Vilify people we disagree with

7. Privatization of Faith

- Let people know you are a believer. [Matthew 10:32-33, Romans 1:16]

“Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.” [Matthew 10:32]

- Religious voices have much to contribute to our nation's public life. (MLK)
- Making faith public will look different for each person.

GOSPEL CENTERED FRAMEWORK FOR ENGAGEMENT

The Gospel is Transformative

We cannot shrink the power of God down to just a simple salvation experience but recognize that the gospel has the ability to transform cultures and countries.

We Want to Live in a Moral Society

“When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices; when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy. Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed.” [Proverbs 11:10-11]

“When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan.” [Proverbs 29:2]

Moral and ethical life influences the natural social realm. Things like righteousness and uprightness have very natural consequences.

First Pray

1. If you need to complain, pour out your complaint to the Lord instead of on social media.
2. History belongs to the intercessor.
3. Pray for our leaders (government and law enforcement)

Live in a Way That Demands an Explanation

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” [Matthew 5:16]

Be Humble

“We are to walk in humility and gentleness, with patience and with long suffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity and the peace.” [Ephesians 4:1]

“We are to avoid foolish arguments, be gentle and teach in humility those who oppose the word of God.” [2 Timothy 2:23-26]

Do Not Treat Other Believers with Contempt

“You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat. So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another.”
[Romans 15:10, 13 (NIV)]

Speak with Grace to Unbelievers

“Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”
[Colossians 4:5-6 (NKJV)]

Seek Wisdom, Not Just Knowledge

“For the wisdom of this world is folly with God.” [1 Corinthians 3:19]

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.” [James 1:5]

To know is not to be wise. Wisdom is knowing what to do when moral rules have no clear answers.

Defend the Gospel, Not Your Political Party

“The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.”
[Philippians 1:16]

Trust God

1. Not man [Psalms 118:8]
2. Not Yourself [Proverbs 28:25]
3. Not Money [Proverbs 11:28]
4. Not Government [Psalms 118:9]

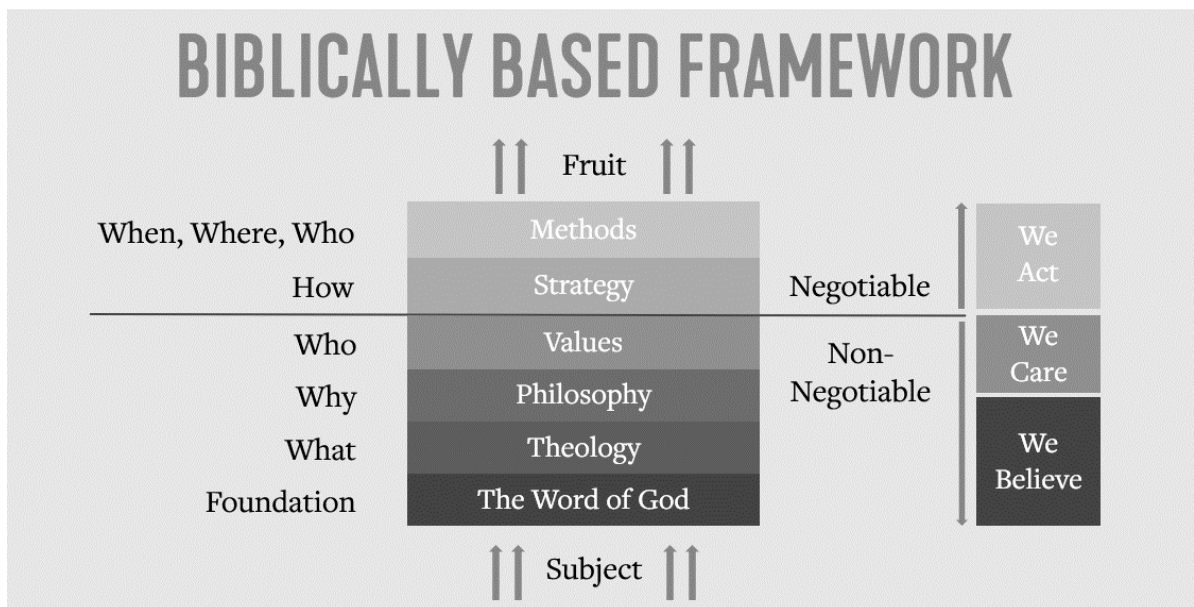
POLITICS FROM THE PULPIT

Public Opinion on Church Involvement in Politics

How Pastors Engage in Politics

1. Determine a Biblical foundation moving forward.

We as Christians must move beyond bumper sticker level of conversations and figure out how to integrate core biblical principles to form a meaningful response to the challenges and questions of life.



2. Fearlessly ask the tough questions and relentlessly pursue the answers in the Word of God.

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” [Hebrews 4:12]

“Call to me and I will answer you and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.” [Jeremiah 33:3]

3. Pastors should teach (over time) on all areas of life and all areas of Bible knowledge.

- Paul says, “I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.” [Acts 20:26-27]
- Business, and money, educational systems, media, marriage and family, government and politics, etc.

Our goal in the pulpit is first faithfulness to God and his Word. It is not

- Avoiding divisions in the church at all costs.
- Making sure everyone leaves happy and feeling good about themselves.

“In many churches [Christian Institutions], the gospel has been watered down until the solution is so weak that if it were poison it wouldn’t hurt anyone and if it were medicine, it wouldn’t cure anyone.”

A.W. TOZER (1897-1963)

4. Pastors should be strategic and surround themselves with wise advisors.

“By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.” [Proverbs 24:3-4]

“Desire without knowledge is not good, and whoever makes haste with his feet misses his way.” [Proverbs 19:2]

5. Be careful that we don’t hold firmly to things that aren’t critical; but uncompromising on those that are.

“But have nothing to do with foolish and ignorant speculations [useless disputes over unedifying, stupid controversies], since you know that they produce strife and give birth to quarrels.” [2 Timothy 2:23 (AMP)]

“People devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God’s work... Some have departed from these and have turned to meaningless talk.” [1 Timothy 1:4-6]

6. Pastors need to leave room for disagreement.

- Not all political judgements will have explicit biblical principles. There are reasonable differences allow Christians to disagree in a biblical application to modern issues.
- We communicate a message not because we love our message, but because we love our audience.

7. A healthy church has members that emphasize influence in all areas of society.

- God has place in the church “variety of gifts” and the church is an entity that has “many members” and still “one body.” [I Corinthians 12:4,12]
- God calls individual Christians to different emphases in their lives

The Church should encourage each other in each of our callings and gifts; not just in the church gathered, but the church scattered.

Christians are not called to change the world;
we are called to testify to the one who already has.

LUKE 8:39, ACTS 1:8

DUAL CITIZENSHIP: WHAT DOES HISTORY TEACH US?

LANNY HUBBARD

I. THERE IS A SPECTRUM OF PEOPLE'S DIFFERENT RESPONSES TO THE TENSION BETWEEN RELIGION AND POLITICS.

A. There are separatists.

B. There are also the ones who believe that their religion should control society.

II. THERE ARE EXAMPLES OF CIVIL RELIGION IN THE ANCIENT WORLD.

Throughout the ages, different governments and leaders used varied political tactics to help them secure their positions of power that enabled them to rule their people. Some resorted to deception by which they manipulated their citizens. Others used physical or military force to control their citizens. Others used a technique of blending the religion and the politics of the nation. Leaders knew that the religious beliefs of their people were a very powerful influence on their people's lives. If the government could convince the citizens that loyalty to the nation was connected to their loyalty to their god, it would create a very powerful combination. The people would then see their political loyalty as part of their religious service. Serving the nation was then how they could serve their god.

III. THERE WAS A NATIONALIST MOVEMENT BEFORE JESUS' DAY.

Religious nationalism is not something that is new. It has been around for millennia. Prior to the coming of Jesus Christ, the Jewish people had a clear example of it in the Intertestamental Period.

IV. THERE WAS A RELIGIOUS/POLITICAL STRUGGLE IN JESUS' DAY.

A. There was a contrast between left/right thinking people in that culture.

B. There were other varied social groups separated by political/religious perspectives.

The **Essenes** existed in scattered areas. They were a very legalistic group that isolated themselves in desert compounds. Their mistrust of the organized religious system of the temple and the life style of the city people drove them into an extreme separatist life.

There were also the **Zealots**. These were the hyper-nationalists of the day. They were very much opposed to any Gentile rule over the people of Israel. Their roots go back to the Maccabees of the Intertestamental era. The focus of their grievance was about Jews paying taxes to the Roman government. This led them to instigate several tax revolts. The last one led to the destruction of Jerusalem by Rome. The most radical of the Zealots acted as assassins who went around killing Romans and Jews who collaborated with them.

There was also the **Herodians**, the **Priesthood** and Levites, the **Sanhedrin**, the **tetrarchs** and the **procurators**.

C. People interpreted the Bible based on their political/religious perspectives.

D. The differences were present in Jesus' disciples.

V. THERE WAS A NATIONALIST MOVEMENT IN JESUS' DAY.

During the time of Jesus' public ministry, He had contact with various forms of Jewish nationalism. He had to address some of their deepest concerns because His teaching would often be contrary to the beliefs of these groups. The kingdom that Jesus preached about was not the same kingdom that the nationalists were promoting. There were several major ways that Jesus confronted the nationalist movements of His day.

A. There was a group called Zealots (Marshall 1263).

B. One of the key concerns of the Jewish people in the first century was their reluctance to pay Roman taxes.

They saw paying taxes to Rome the same as supporting the Roman pagan lifestyle and religion. Paying taxes was seen by some Jews as a form of idolatry. It was an act of disowning YHWH. To tell people to not pay taxes would have been interpreted by Rome as an act of rebellion.

C. There were different Jewish revolutionary figures that rose up in the first century (Green 939).

In around 6 AD a man named Judas the Galilean started a tax revolt against the tax referred to in Luke 2:1-3, and Acts 5:37. Later in 45 AD a man named Theudas started a revolt that was mentioned in Acts 5:36. There was also another Egyptian mentioned in Acts 5:37 that started a similar revolt. Jesus was even accused of being part of such a rebellion (Luke 23:2). This was the political climate that Jesus was in. Different revolutionary leaders gathered people around them to fight for their nation. None of these uprisings amounted to anything but they all show that the nationalist spirit was alive among the people who were waiting for the next leader to arise and champion their cause.

D. There is also an important example of nationalistic spirit seen during the ministry of Jesus.

There are different times, after Jesus would perform a miracle for a people that He would tell them not to tell anyone that He was the Messiah.

E. A last example of the nationalist spirit can be seen in the disciples themselves.

Acts 1:6 records the last moments of Jesus on earth just before He ascended to be with the Father. The disciples were gathered around and asked Jesus one last question. After all, they had seen Jesus do and what He preached about the Kingdom of God, their question was if finally the kingdom of Israel was going to be restored. They were still looking to see the old glory of the nation restored. This is because that idea had been so ingrained in them. It was hard to let it go and be replaced with a heavenly kingdom

VI. THERE WAS A NATIONALIST MOVEMENT AFTER JESUS' DAY.

Different nations in the 1st century reacted differently to Rome's control of their regions. Not all people viewed the rule of Rome as a positive thing. There were hopes among various people that revolutionary leaders would arise and liberate them from Rome. The charismatic leaders of such liberation movements are referred to by modern scholars as "militant messiahs".

VII. THERE ARE SOME BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES CHRISTIANS CAN USE WHEN EVALUATING THE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT TODAY.

- A. The earth belongs to the Lord.**

- B. The nation of Israel provides us with an example to consider. The fact that the Lord drove Israel out of their land twice in Bible history shows that He has the authority to determine how long any nation controls their land.**

- C. Christians generally are directed to support the government and not try to overthrow it (Romans 13:1-7; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-18). The wording of these passages is very important.**

- D. Do not trust in man.**

- E. Freedom is important, but it is easy to abuse it.**

The heart of the work of redemption involves the delivering of people from the bondage of sin. Salvation is about the freeing of people. This act of liberation is to bring people to a place of spiritual freedom. Therefore, freedom is an important element of salvation. Paul tells the Believers in the churches of Galatia to stand firmly in the liberty that Christ had given them. They were to not let things like sin or legalism lure them back into a bondage situation.

Freedom, however, is something that must be protected. A liberated individual must be careful to not use their freedom in a way that is wrong. True freedom can easily be misconstrued as the liberty to do whatever a person wants to do. A once freed person can, by their own careless choices, allow their personal, selfish desires to bring them back into a new bondage (Galatians 5:13). The person that had been freed from one form of bondage then finds themselves back in a new one. Promoting the notion that a person is free to do whatever they desire can easily bring a person into a slavery to lust.

F. Jesus faced a conflict of kingdoms.

G. There is a difference between nationalism and patriotism.

Many people live with an appreciation of the nation they were born in or grew up in. This is expected. The culture of that nation becomes a basis for how each person thinks and lives. Being thankful for the opportunity to be brought up in those environments with their own traditions, food and music can often be some of the strongest formative influences a person possesses. People will often use that sense of nationality as part of their personal identity.

This positive attitude about one's national identity often manifests itself in volunteer service back to the country. People volunteer for civic activity, social and military service as a way of paying back their nation for the opportunity to live there. Hearing the national anthem or saluting the flag can be very emotional events for some people because of their attachment to the country. These things are part of what is called patriotism. It is the byproduct of a person's positive assessment of having lived in a certain country.

H. Jesus said in Matthew 6:33 that His followers were to seek God and His kingdom first over all natural concerns.

The things of this world are not of equal value to the things of God. Nations come and go. Temporal things come and go, but God and His kingdom will remain forever. It is hard, living every day in our physical world, to remember that there are things more important than what we see and handle all the time. Our nation and physical environment can blind us to the greater and more permanent realm that God lives in. We can easily replace the Creator with created things (Romans 1:25). If that switch occurs, it is an indicator that the truth of God has been replaced by something else.

I. Believers must maintain kingdom values.

Paul, in Romans 14 has to give some advice to a church that was being torn apart by the competing values of different groups. Some members of the church had come from a regimented Jewish background. They would put great value on certain religious rituals. Another part of the church did not have that heritage and felt they did not have to feel bound to those things. The church was polarizing over this. To help unite both groups, so that they could live in cooperation with each other, Paul stated a very important truth. In Rom 14:17 he says that God's kingdom is not comprised of physical elements or rituals. His kingdom is made up of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. What Paul was saying was that if the differences of people result in the absence of righteousness, peace and joy then the essence of God's Kingdom had been lost. The people were then living by something other than Kingdom values.

VIII. CONCLUSION

History demonstrates that varied forms of civil religion do not end well. Often they end in creating a new form of idolatry based on the efforts of people and not God. History also shows that these freedom movements are often filled with their own internal conflicts and usually end up fighting among themselves. Today many Christian groups are seeing the dangers of the new escalation of religious nationalist groups (Duin). They are speaking out against them by revisiting the Scriptures to see if it supports the actions and attitudes of the modern national Zealots. Once again, the Church finds itself in a conflict of kingdoms. Yes, there are problems in our nation, but are they to be solved man's way or God's way?

These events do not end up healing our land. They just create more confusion and fear. Is this what we are hoping for? Are the activities that take place at these gatherings consistent with what the Bible tells Jesus' followers to do? Do they accomplish the eternal purposes of God? Does the strong religious nationalistic movement, that is sweeping our nation, promote God's will being done on earth as it is in heaven?

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