

Series: Christianity & Politics
Title: Should We Care?
Lesson: 1

Text: Assorted Texts
Date: August 11, 2024

1. Should Christianity play a role in politics and government?

A shift in reinterpreting the First Amendment.

Separation of church and state

The Bill of Rights

1. The right to assemble
2. The right to petition government
3. The right to freedom of the press
4. The right to the freedom of speech
5. _____

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise therefore; or abridging the freedom of speech”

**What was originally intended to guarantee freedom
_____ religion has come to mean freedom
_____ Religion.**

2. Should Christians care about politics?

Matthew 28:19–20 “Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 5:13–15 “You are the **salt of the earth**; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

14 “You are the **light of the world**. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

Galatians 6:10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us **do good to all people**, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a disgrace to any people.

Our Christianity should have governmental influence.

1 Timothy 2:1–2 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, 2 for **kings and all who are in authority**, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

Daniel

Daniel 4:27 ‘Therefore, O king, may my advice be pleasing to you: break away now from your ***sins*** by doing righteousness and from your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor, in case there may be a prolonging of your prosperity.’

Jeremiah

Jeremiah 29:7 ‘Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf; for in its welfare you will have welfare.’

Joseph - Gen. 41:37-45; 42:6; 45:8-9, 26)

Moses - Exodus 8:1

Nehemiah - Neh. 1:11

Queen Esther - Esth. 5:1-8; 7:1-6; 8:3-13; 9:12-15; 29-32)

John the Baptist

Apostle Paul - Acts 24:25 -

3. How can we love church members who have different political views?

**The root cause of our political difference is
our view of _____**

**The work of government fundamentally concerns
the matter of justice**

Genesis 9:5–6 “Surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man’s brother I will require the life of man. 6
“Whoever sheds man’s blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.

David’s kingship

2 Samuel 8:15 So David reigned over all Israel; and David administered ***justice*** and righteousness for all his people.

Solomon’s reign

1 Kings 10:9 “Blessed be the Lord your God who delighted in you to set you on the throne of Israel; because the Lord loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do ***justice*** and righteousness.”

Proverbs 29:4 The king gives stability to the land by **justice**. But a man who takes bribes overthrows it.

Church age government

Romans 13:3-4 For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; 4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

Ecclesiastes 8:11 Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil.

3. How can we love church members who have different political views?

**A. Love and unity should _____
our political differences.**

John 17:22 “The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that **they may be one**, just as We are one;

Ephesians 4:1–3 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with

which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 **being diligent** to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

“being diligent” [spoudazō] -

**B. Remember that unity within _____
is a sign of the Holy Spirit’s work.**

Ephesians 2:14–15 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing **peace**,

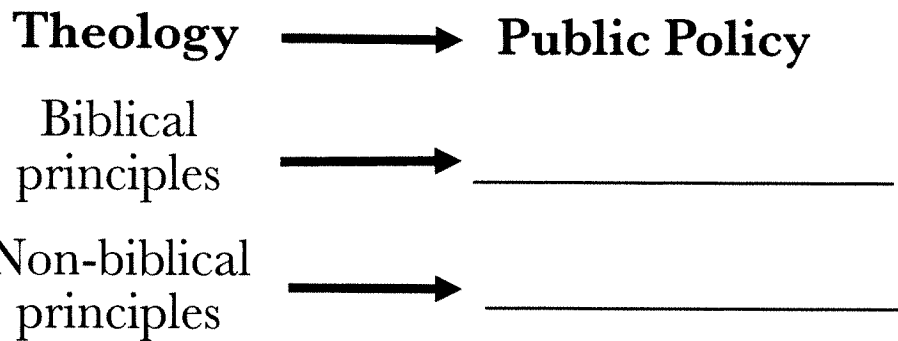
There is a difference between unity uniformity.

Matthew & Simon the Zealot

Matthew (publican) -

Simon (zealot) -

**3. We need to differentiate between _____ and
_____ - tier issues.**



Biblical principles where we must agree:

1. Jim Crow laws (Racism)
2. Same-sex unions
3. Abortion
4. Law & Order (Criminal justice)
5. Israel

Non-biblical principles of conscience

1. Taxes (Taxing the rich)
2. Universal Healthcare
3. Foreign policy
4. Inflation
5. Climate control

Discussion Guide

How has the First Amendment changed from its original meaning and how has that change affected Christianity in the public square?

Why is justice so important to us and what is the difference between justice and fairness?

Do you agree that voting is one way we can be salt and light to our world? Why or why not?

What does it mean that we can have unity within diversity?

Did today's sermon strengthen your beliefs or belief in politics or did it challenge you?

ANSWERS: Freedom of Religion, of, from, Justice, overcome, diversity, first, second, Must vote, Conscience