

Momentum Graphic
Series Graphic
Q&A Slides

{all one slide}

What is God doing with America?
Politics & Voting ...? What if *they* win ...?
Church & politics ...?
Love my country but ...

Image – God Bless America

https://th.bing.com/th/id/R.65cee5c66960f1335789ee05bc90406e?rik=zTMjLkWD2aicgA&riu=http%3a%2f%2fwww.lovethepic.com%2fuploaded_images%2f174841-God-Bless-America.jpg&ehk=fy4CCgl1%2b16SXedVSWI22MNZ6%2fYdL1vEWPIOIQjU6j0%3d&risl=&pid=ImgRaw&r=0&sres=1&sresct=1

The Blessing of America:

- Individual liberty & freedom of conscious
- Dignity & equality of all people
- Limited government w/checks & balances
 - Judeo-Christian morality
- Generosity

What is the Church's role in politics?

{one slide}

Politics:

Individuals & institutions participating in the public square

- Good governance
- Good “neighboring”
- Common good → Jeremiah 29:7

Politics—even in the church—has increasingly taken on ultimate importance.

{one slide; left and right sides of screen}

American Politics:

- Binary
- Winning

Church:

???
???

American Politics:

Church:

- Binary
 - Winning
- Biblical
Faithful

What does God's Word—the Bible—say?

Matthew 4:17

From then on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, because the **kingdom of heaven** has come near."

- In Matthew: Kingdom x54; church: x3

1) The Kingdom of Jesus is **ultimately important**.

→ Worldly politics is made relative by and subordinate to Jesus' Kingdom.

Knowing what is ultimately important changes how anxious, triumphalist or despondent we are about the outcome of each election cycle.

When we make ultimate something of lesser importance, we'll sin to protect or promote it.

- We HAVE to WIN the debate, the argument, the election!
- We're justified in getting so upset and so angry at _____.
- We have to TAKE A STAND!

{One of each side of the screen; half-slide}

Democracy:

We the people

Kingdom of God:

In the beginning was the Word

{bullet points come up one at a time; separate slides is fine but show the heading on each one}

Churches & Pastors in America:

- ***Have we/I neglected the greatest of all realities and diverted people's attention to the strategies of politics?***
- ***Have we/I shown people that the greatest issue is magnifying and exalting Christ with or without America?***
- ***Have we/I demonstrated that those who do the most good for the longest time are people who have the aroma of another world with another King?***

2) For the church (God's people), the Kingdom of Jesus tells us **who** we are and **where** we are.

- Our most fundamental & defining identity
- Our primary "location"

“As a Christian, you are not a citizen of this world going to heaven; you are a citizen of heaven making your way through this world.” {Vance Havner}

Matthew 5:1-11

When He saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain, and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. ² Then He began to teach them, saying:

³ “**Blessed** are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

¹¹ “You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. ¹² Be **glad and rejoice**, because your reward is great in heaven ...

The Beatitudes are not conditions of the Kingdom.

- The Beatitudes articulate the **radical inclusivity**, **amazing availability**, and **overflowing abundant goodness** of the Kingdom.

Matthew 5:13a-16

“You are the **salt of the earth** ... ¹⁴ “You are the **light of the world**. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine **before others**, so that they may see **your good works** and give **glory to your Father** in heaven.

3) The **Church is a Kingdom **outpost & embassy** ... a preview—a working model of what is to come and the best is yet to come!**

- a) We rest and rejoice in the **sovereignty of God**.

Daniel 2:21a (NLT)

He controls the course of world events; He removes kings and sets up other kings.

- b) We know **how** the Kingdom advances: **sacrificial love**.

John 18:36 (NLT)

Jesus answered, "My Kingdom is **not** an earthly kingdom. If it were, My followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But My Kingdom is not **of** this world."

The Kingdom has a different **source, nature, and means**.

The Way of the Kingdom // The Way of Our King

- Sacrifice, not sword → Enemy love**
- Humility, meekness, compassion**
- Truth in love**

c) We know who are truly **blessed** → **prophetic voice**

The primary means Satan uses for evil are the **ideas** that grip & govern society and the **character** of its people.

Mark 6:18

For Herod had sent soldiers to arrest and imprison John because he kept saying it was **wrong** for the king to marry Herodias, his brother Philip's wife.

Proverbs 14:12 (NLT)

There is a path before each person that **seems right**, but it ends in death.

The Church: **engaged** but not **consumed** with politics.

Voting is an honor, a privilege and a way of doing good.

Voting is a matter of conscience, not a marker of salvation or unity!

The Church must re-prioritize **evangelism**.

Faithfulness for us is NOT **winning** ... but **representing** King Jesus!