

Series graphic

{bullets come up 1 at a time}

What is the Church's role in politics?

- Politics are not ultimate; Jesus and His Kingdom are
- Church: salt & light; embassy for the King and preview of His Kingdom

How should a Christian (follower of Jesus) “do” politics?

I Timothy 6:11-16

But you, man of God, **flee** from these things, and **pursue** righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. ¹² **Fight** the **good** fight of the faith. **Take hold** of eternal life to which you were called and about which you have made a good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all, and of Christ Jesus, who gave a **good confession** before Pontius Pilate, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep this command without fault or failure until **the appearing** of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ God will bring this about in His own time. He is the blessed and **only Sovereign**, the **King of kings**, and the **Lord of lords**, ¹⁶ Who alone is **immortal** and Who lives in **unapproachable light**, Whom no one has seen or can see to Him be **honor and eternal power**. Amen.

1) Being a **disciple of Jesus and citizen of His Kingdom affects everything**, including **politics**.

→ Apply our discipleship to Jesus to our politics

A Vision for Life:

- Life with God is the best thing going today, tomorrow & forever
- Summons to fight the good fight of faith

This vision eliminates reduced, minimalistic, compartmentalized & privatized Christianity.

- Jesus is Lord of my life AND Lord of all ... *only Sovereign, the King of Kings*

Christian politics (life in the public sphere) concerns how we integrate our confession that **Jesus is Lord** with His call to **love our neighbors** and relate to others with **gentleness**.

- We are not participating in politics primarily to impose our will or gain power but to act in loving service to others.

2) Doing politics as Jesus' disciple is NOT first about our **stance on certain issues** or how we **vote** but rather about what **type of people** we are.

→ We do not work down from the issues but rather UP from the foundation of the Gospel and our discipleship to Jesus.

2) Doing politics as Jesus' disciple is NOT first about our stance on certain issues or how we vote but rather about what type of people we are.

a) Reject the belief that "politics" is our **savior and silver bullet**

Sources Used by Our Founders:

- Advocating for liberty
 - Bible (most used)
 - 2nd most: French philosopher Montesquieu
 - *"Bad examples can be worse than crimes."*

Our Founders & Freedom:

- Freedom from coercion (tyranny of absolute power)
- Freedom from the tyranny of unrestrained desires

2) Doing politics as Jesus' disciple is NOT first about our stance on certain issues or how we vote but rather about what type of people we are.

b) Reject the "tools" of **injury, anger, and mockery**

{one slide}

Our King:

- Heals & affirms
- Forgives & satisfies
- Empowers us to love others as He loves us

2) Doing politics as Jesus' disciple is NOT first about our stance on certain issues or how we vote but rather about what type of people we are.

c) Realize politics often deals with matters of **wisdom and context**

INSERT IMAGE that I sent via email last week

C.S. Lewis:

"Enemy-occupied territory is what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful King has landed—you might say in disguise, and is calling us all to take part in a great campaign of sabotage."

3) Doing politics as Jesus' disciple means we fight **from victory** rather than **for it**.

N.T. Wright

“We live in the present in a way that will make sense in God’s promised future because that future has arrived in the present in Jesus of Nazareth and the Spirit-filled Church He is building.”

- 3) Doing politics as Jesus’ disciple means we fight from victory rather than for it.
a) Live with **absolute confidence** in God, His truth and our future

When we lose confidence in God and His sufficiency, we take matters into our own hands ... and we make poor witnesses to the King of Kings.

Revelation 22:3-5 (NLT)

No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ And they will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. ⁵ And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever.

- 3) Doing politics as Jesus’ disciple means we fight from victory rather than for it.
a) Live with absolute confidence in God, His truth, and our future.
b) Voting is the **baseline** of political expression but not the **height** of it.

- 3) Doing politics as Jesus’ disciple means we fight from victory rather than for it.
a) Live with absolute confidence in God and His truth.
b) Voting is the baseline of political expression but not the height of it.
c) Faithfully being the **church** is the greatest **political expression** we can offer

{come up one at a time}

How the Church Was Radically Different than Rome:

- Multi-racial; socioeconomically diverse → yet startlingly united
- Forgiving & Reconciling → 2nd Milers!
- Charity & Hospitality to the poor & suffering → gracious & generous
- Committed to the sanctify of life → whole life agenda
- Sexual counterculture → purity

IMAGE OF RUBY BRIDGES

<https://th.bing.com/th/id/R.3b4cd9a9f262fcb4eda5a61177b68369?rik=FiwY9vaYllsBSg&riu=http%3a%2f%2fyoungcivilrights.weebly.com%2fuploads%2f%2f7%2f6%2f3%2f27632459%2f6772284.jpg%3f1396332594&ehk=7V5qtQsp7wLp4LyyhTi98WV76iUOm6XOhlo3HL18Nds%3d&risl=&pid=ImgRaw&r=0>

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