

Series: Let's Talk About It

Sermon: Politics

Passage: various

Illustration:

Need: American Christians have a unique opportunity to be directly involved in government. They also have a unique responsibility to be Christ-like stewards of political rhetoric.

I. God has established human government. (Rom. 13:1-7)

- As a result of the fall (sin), God has established human governments to maintain order.
- God uses human government to accomplish His sovereign purpose - Israel, Egypt, Philistia, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, etc. (see Ps. 22:28, 75:7, Prov. 21:1, Dan. 2:20-21, 4:17)
- All forms of human government, including a Democratic Republic, are flawed & broken because of sin.
- "of the people, for the people, by the people" - Abraham Lincoln (Gettysburg Address, 1863)

II. Christians have a responsibility to those who govern. (Matt. 22:21; 1 Pet. 2:13-17; 1 Tim. 2:1-2)

- All Christians are instructed to pay, submit, honor, and pray for those who govern them.
- Represent God with our voice (if we have one) for the cause of the marginalized and oppressed (see Psalm 82:3, Prov. 31:9, Jer. 22:2-3, Isa. 1:17, Zech. 7:9-10, James 1:27).
- When given the opportunity to serve in roles of authority - be genuine salt & light.

III. Christians must be vigilantly protect their allegiance. (Phil. 3:20-21; Matt. 22:21; Col. 1:13-14; Matt. 6:24)

- Nationalism is a seductive harlot that seeks to draw Christians into her web.
- "Some bands of Christianity tie the cross so closely to the flag that it's hard to distinguish if Jesus started a counter-cultural movement or an American political Platform." Pangea Church website (Seattle, WA)
- God does not root for the USA at the Olympics. We are not God's favorite.
- All Christians everywhere are called to have one allegiance that all others must submit to - Jesus!

IV. How must American Christians conduct themselves in our political atmosphere? (Rom 12:16-21)

- Pursue harmony instead of division.
- Act humbly instead of bullishly prideful.
- Be an agent of honor instead of denigration.
- Seek peace instead of an argument.
- Be patient in God's sovereign plan.
- Be unwilling to be marked by hate.
- Col. 3:17
- Pray. Vote. Pray. Submit. Pray. Champion the causes (not the politicians) that Jesus would champion with Love, Compassion, Truth, Gentleness, Grace, & Understanding. Pray.

V. Let's talk about Politics. Let's represent Jesus by our allegiance & with our words!