



**gospel
answers to**

**POLITICAL
CONCERNS**



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Introduction

What this study is not:

- It is not a _____ advocacy.
- It is not a _____ suggestion.
- It is not _____ or regional.

What this study is:

- It is _____.
 - Filled with Scripture

When we lose a sense of the moral authority that Scripture has over us, we are able to isolate biblical stories from the larger narrative of redemption and are in danger of using them to justify whatever we want.¹

-Kaitlyn Schiess

- The Bible was not written to answer every political question.
- The Bible was written to reveal God and the way He interacts with His creations.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

◦ Filled with theology

Born-again politics is a different kind of politics.²
- Jonathan Leeman and Andy Naselli

- Use good _____
- Use _____ triage
 - Principle (First order) - The Bible speaks unambiguously.
 - Prudence (Second order) - Wisdom for the age and culture, biblically and convictionally informed, but still subjective and Christians can agree to disagree.
 - Preference (Third order) - Totally subjective, based on individual styles, ideas, and experiences.

◦ Filled with the gospel

- God
- Man
- Christ
- Response

• It is _____.

◦ Definition

'Political' simply means the activities associated with the organization and governance of people.³
- Patrick Schreiner

◦ Statistics

◦ Research

• It is _____.

◦ Thought-provoking

Political judgements require wisdom.⁴
- Jonathan Leeman and Andy Naselli

- Questions to ponder:
 - How does God relate to the government?
 - How should Christians relate to the government?

- What if we disagree with governing authorities?
- What if we disagree with fellow Christians about political matters?
- How are governmental issues understood within a persecuted context?
- What is justice?
- Should all sin be a crime?
- Do Christians have to vote?
- Must Christians vote Republican?
- Must Christians vote Democrat?
- Should churches speak out on political matters?
- What about separation of church and state?
- Is the United States a Christian nation?
- Should a Christian be for or against gun control, abortion, environmental protection, graduated or progressive tax rates based on income, nuclear weapons, same-sex marriage, capital punishment, immigration restrictions, tariffs, military spending, or universal health care?

◦ Decision-prompting

Christianity is political. Though it might sound crazy in our supercharged political climate, I don't think the average Christian is nearly political enough... Jesus made a political announcement. He declared himself King. We have one ruler to whom we are loyal.⁵

- Patrick Schreiner

▪ Political Triage

- _____ (First order)
- _____ (Second order)
- _____ (Third order)

◦ Action-stirring

Colossians 3:9-10

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Mark 12:30

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

Here, my dear Marcellinus, is the fulfillment of my promise, a book in which I have taken upon myself the task of defending the glorious City of God against those who prefer their own gods to the Founder of that City. I treat it both as it exists in this world of time, a stranger among the ungodly, living by faith, and as it stands in the security of its everlasting seat. This security now awaits in steadfast patience, until justice returns to judgement; but it is to attain it hereafter in virtue of its ascendancy over its enemies, when the final victory is won and peace is established. The task is long and arduous; but God is our helper. I know how great is the effort needed to convince the proud of the power and excellence of humility, an excellence which makes it soar above all the summits of this world, which sway in their temporal instability, overtopping them all with an eminence not arrogated by human pride, but granted divine grace. For the King and Founder of this City which is our subject has revealed in the Scripture of his people this statement of divine Law, 'God resists the proud, but he gives grace to the humble.' This is God's prerogative; but man delights to hear this verse quoted in its own praise: 'To spare the conquered, and beat down the proud.' Therefore I cannot refrain from speaking about the city of this world, a city which aims at dominion, which holds nations in enslavement, but is itself dominated by that very lust of domination. I must consider this city as far as the scheme of this work demands as occasion serves.⁶

- Augustine of Hippo

Citizenship

Because we are image bearers, we are to live in community with those around us. Because we are Christ followers, we are to be upright, engaged citizens in our land.

Facts

- Population⁷
 - US: 335,800,628
 - MS: 2,940,057
 - Jackson Metro: 487,822

- Registered voters⁸
 - US: 161,422,000
 - MS: 1,572,000
 - Jackson Metro: 338,369

- Branches
 - Federal: United States of America
 - Executive⁹
 - Joe Biden - President
 - Kamala Harris - Vice President
 - Antony Blinken - Secretary of State
 - Dr. Janet Yellen - Secretary of the Treasury
 - Lloyd Austin - Secretary of Defense
 - Merrick Garland - Attorney General
 - Deb Haaland - Secretary of the Interior
 - Tom Vilsack - Secretary of Agriculture
 - Gina Raimondo - Secretary of Commerce
 - Julie Su - Acting Secretary of Labor
 - Xavier Becerra - Secretary of Health and Human Services
 - Marcia Fudge - Secretary of Housing/Urban Development
 - Pete Buttigieg - Secretary of Transportation
 - Jennifer Granholm - Secretary of Energy
 - Dr. Miguel Cardona - Secretary of Education
 - Denis McDonough - Secretary of Veterans Affairs
 - Alejandro Mayorkas - Secretary of Homeland Security

- Judicial¹⁰
 - John G. Roberts Jr - Chief Justice
 - Clarence Thomas
 - Samuel A. Alito Jr
 - Sonia Sotomayor
 - Elena Kagan
 - Neil M. Gorsuch
 - Brett M. Kavanaugh
 - Amy Coney Barrett
 - Ketanji Brown Jackson

- Legislative¹¹
 - Senate**
 - Roger Wicker
 - Cindy Hyde-Smith
 - House of Representatives**
 - Mike Ezell
 - Michael Guest
 - Trent Kelly
 - Bernie Thompson

◦ State: Mississippi

- Executive¹²
 - Tate Reeves - Governor
 - Delbert Hosemann - Lieutenant Governor
 - Michael Watson - Secretary of State
 - Lynn Fitch - Attorney General
 - David McKay - Treasurer
 - Shad White - State Auditor
 - Andy Gipson - Agriculture Commissioner
 - Mike Chaney - Insurance Commissioner

- Judicial¹³
 - Michael K. Randolph - Chief Justice
 - David Ishee
 - Dawn H. Beam
 - James Kitchens
 - James Maxwell
 - Josiah Coleman
 - Leslie King
 - Robert Chamberlin
 - T. Kenneth Griffis

- Legislative
 - Senate¹⁴**
 - Josh Harkins - District 20
 - Bradford Blackmon - District 21
 - Walter Michel - District 25

- John Horhn - District 26
- Hillman Frazier - District 27
- Sollie B. Norwood - District 28
- David Blount - District 29
- Dean Kirby - District 30
- Andy Berry - District 35
- Brian Rhodes - District 36

House of Representatives¹⁵

- Kenji Holloway - District 27
- Keith Jackson - District 45
- Clay Mansell - District 56
- Lawrence Blackmon - District 57
- Jonathan McMillan - District 58
- Brent Powell - District 59
- Fred Shanks - District 60
- Gene Newman - District 61
- Lance Varner - District 62
- Stephanie Foster - District 63
- Shanda Yates - District 64
- Christopher Bell - District 65
- Fabian Nelson - District 66
- Earle Banks - District 67
- Zakiya Summers - District 68
- Tamarra Butler-Washington - District 69
- William Brown - District 70
- Ronnie Crudup Jr. - District 71
- Justis Gibbs - District 72
- Jill Ford - District 73
- Lee Yancey - District 74
- Celeste Hurst - District 75
- Gregory Holloway Sr. - District 76
- Price Wallace - District 77
- Jeffery Harness - District 85

◦ **Local: Ridgeland**

- **Ridgeland Mayor**¹⁶
 - Gene McGee
- **Ridgeland City Aldermen**¹⁷
 - D.I. Smith
 - Ken Heard
 - Chuck Gautier
 - Kevin Holder
 - Brian Ramsey
 - Bill Lee
 - Wesley Hamlin

- Madison County Judges¹⁸
 - Judge Robert G. Clark, III
 - Judge Cynthia Brewer
 - Judge James C. Walker
 - Hon. M. Bradley Mills
 - Hon. Dewey Arthur
 - Hon. Steve Ratcliff
 - Judge Staci O'Neal
 - Judge Ed Hannan
 - Judge Marsha Weems Stacey
 - Judge Martina Griffin
 - Judge Lloyd Spivey, III
 - Judge Bruce McKinley

What does citizenship mean?

- A _____ definition of citizenship
 - "A legal status and relation between an individual and a state that entails specific legal rights and duties."¹⁹
 - Why is it important to understand citizenship as a Christian?

Romans 13:1

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

- A _____ definition of citizenship

Ephesians 2:19

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

Philippians 3:20

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ...

Isaiah 9:6-7

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Paradoxically, we should be the best citizens of the state because our citizenship is in heaven. But by 'best citizens,' I

mean that we embody the Christian ideals of love, faithfulness, and service toward neighbors. We have dual identities. They should neither be completely divorced nor completely married...Our heavenly citizenship trumps our earthly citizenship.²⁰

- Patrick Schreiner

◦ As believers, we have _____ citizenship.

▪ We want our _____ citizenship on earth to be worthy of the gospel.

▫ Fixed on Christ, not our country.

Philippians 1:21

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

▫ United as the church, not our political party.

Philippians 3:20-21

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

▪ We want our citizenship in heaven to be our _____ identity.

Philippians 3:12-16

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

▫ The completion of our salvation

Philippians 3:7-11

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith

in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

◦The crown of others' salvation

Philippians 4:1

Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

Philippians 4:9

What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

- Practical implications of our earthly citizenship

- Vote

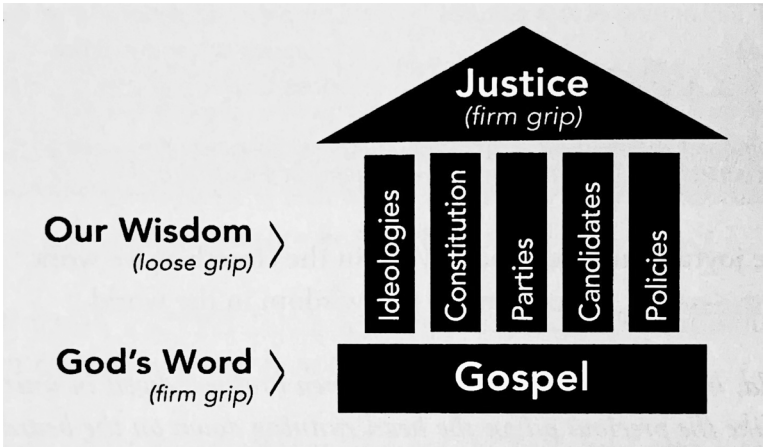
And in America, currently, this obsession with partisanship is killing Christian witness. Too many of us are so wrapped in the fight that we panic when our chosen politician is not elected.²¹
- Patrick Schreiner

Misplaced loyalties are powerful and dangerous forces precisely because they play on our desire to join a community and submit to its authority. When we do this, we don't need to read an opposing opinion because our community has already ruled it suspect. We don't have to engage with those we disagree with because they aren't part of 'us.' We don't need to evaluate the merits of a particular policy because the 'other side' proposed it.²²
- Kaitlyn Schiess

People today often treat their votes as personal expressions of who they are. Yet we would encourage you to view votes less as matters of self-expression or tribal identification and more as strategic calculations concerning these kinds of non-biblical matters. Then recognize that different Christians will make different wisdom-based calculations.²³
- Jonathan Leeman and Andrew Naselli

God's Word	< ----- >	Our Wisdom
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Rules of the game" • Biblically mandated • Direct, straight line to positions and policies • Binding on a Christian's conscience- "must do" • Clear and unchanging across cultures and times • Firm Grip / Closed Hand 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Strategy for the game" • Biblically informed • Indirect, jagged line to positions and policies • Freedom in a Christian's conscience- "can do" • Complex calculations in various cultures at various times • Loose Grip / Open Hand

This chart is adapted from Jonathan Leeman's course titled "Christians and Government" at 9marks.org.



This diagram is adapted from Jonathan Leeman's course titled "Christians and Government" at 9marks.org.

Biblical Clarity		
	Practical Consequences	

This illustration is used from David Platt's book *Before You Vote*.

No matter what you think about what happened from 2016 to 2021 in America, the evidence suggests churches have failed to disciple people in the realm of political engagement.²⁴
- Patrick Schreiner

◦Write

◦Participate

The first hurdle to faithful political participation is our focus on personal piety and individual transformation.²⁵
- Kaitlyn Schiess

Enemy occupied territory—that is what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed, you might say landed in disguise, and is calling us all to take part in a great campaign of sabotage.²⁶
- C.S. Lewis

STANDING ON THE PROMISES OF GOD

Standing on the promises of Christ, my King,
Through eternal ages let his praises ring;
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail.
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises of Christ, the Lord,
Bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
List'ning ev'ry moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God, my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.²⁷

Religious Liberty

*Because we are image bearers, we ought to express freedom to believe.
Because we are Christ followers, we ought to desire freedom for truth.*

*Religious liberty is among the most important and most misunderstood topics today in America.²⁸
- Andrew T. Walker*

Facts

- First Amendment

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.²⁹
- United States Bill of Rights*

The Difference Between Nation-States and Christianity		
Category	Nation-States	Christianity
Entrance	Arbitrary historical accident	Voluntary intention
Geography	Borders	Transnational
Defense	Army/military/building walls	Erases borders, breaks down walls
Citizens	Monochromatic	Multiform
Agenda	Their own interests	The interests of others
Shortcoming	Not living up to potential and ideals	Corrupt nature
Hope	In their own ingenuity	In the work of another

This chart is from Patrick Schreiner's book *Political Gospel*.

- **Historic Interests**³⁰
 - 1796 - The Tennessee Constitution Convention defeats the proposal requiring a profession of faith by all officeholders.
 - 1925 - "The _____ Monkey Trial"
 - John Thomas Scopes is found guilty of breaking Tennessee law prohibiting teaching of evolution in public schools.
 - 1940 - *Minersville School District v. Gobitis*
 - Jehovah's Witness family chooses not to salute the flag.
 - 1962 - *Engel v. Vitale*
 - State-composed, non-denominational prayer violates the 1st Amendment.
 - 1963 - *Sherbert v. Verner*
 - Seventh Day Adventist is denied unemployment because of not working on Saturday.
 - 1970 - *Waltz v. Tax Commission*
 - The U.S. Supreme Court finds that a state law exempting the property or income of religious organizations from taxation does not violate the Establishment Clause. The Court states that history has revealed no danger that such exemptions will give rise to either a religious effect or an entanglement of government and religion.
 - 1985 - *Wallace v. Jaffree*
 - The U.S. Supreme Court invalidates an Alabama law authorizing a one-minute silent period at the start of each school day "for meditation or voluntary prayer." The Court finds that the law was enacted to endorse religion, thus violating the Establishment Clause.
 - 2014 - *Burwell v. _____*
 - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that closely held corporations were exempt from the part of the Affordable Care Act that required them to provide coverage for forms of contraceptives that violated the owners' beliefs against the use of abortifacients.

Scriptural truths regarding religious liberty

- _____ truths vs. _____ truths
 - Religious liberty is an implicit truth in Scripture.

Exodus 20:3

You shall have no other gods before me.

- **Jesus is King.**

Romans 13:1-5

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.

- The government's role is limited by the true King.
- The government's authority is given by the true Ruler.

between church and state

We must not imitate imperialist forms of religion: the Spanish Inquisition, Charlemagne, the cross-carrying conquistadors, the Nazi co-option of Christianity—these are all corruptions of Christianity's political vision. We have seen through history that using political power to implement God's law ends in disaster.³¹
- Patrick Schreiner

Christians should have particular care for religious liberty because it's the pillar that allows the church to fulfill its mission. Religious liberty means we have the freedom to pledge allegiance to a power greater than the state itself.³²
- Andrew T. Walker

Galatians 5:1

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

1 Peter 2:16

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

Romans 13:1

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

Why do we need religious liberty?

- Worldly influence is accepted quicker.
 - 1996 - 65% of American Christians were opposed to same-sex marriage³³
 - 2015 - 61% of American Christians supported same-sex marriage³⁴
 - 2003 - 0 states had legalized same-sex marriage
 - 2012 - 9 states had legalized same-sex marriage
 - 2015 - 50 states have legalized same-sex marriage³⁵

How does our influence hurt religious liberty?

- The most biblical form of government...
 - Gets out of the way.
 - Is neither hostile nor too cozy with religion.
 - Allows Christian mission to prosper and compete against all other religions.
 - Doesn't see itself as a totalizing or absolute force.³⁶

How does religious liberty help our influence?

To be free to believe, and free to live out those beliefs, is the very cornerstone of a free society. Religious liberty is the right that secures and anchors all other rights. How so? Religious liberty arises from the truth that a person's relationship with God is the most important relationship a person can have.³⁷

- Andrew T. Walker

- We seek to stand on the _____ of God.

The future of religious liberty in the United States rests largely on churches' willingness to stand on the truth of God's Word, to equip Christians to speak and to act on that truth in their everyday lives, and to convey that we do so out of a desire for the good of all.³⁸

- Jennifer Marshall

- _____ the truth.
- _____ with the truth.
- _____ to apply the truth.

- We seek to advance freedom for all people.

We advance religious liberty because the glory of God is at stake. We advance religious liberty because we believe that every person is created in God's image and accountable to Him and where God has placed him (Acts 17:25-26). We advance religious liberty because a nation that protects religious diversity is a nation that respects its citizens. We advance religious liberty because a nation that understands that its laws and commands are not ultimate makes for a government that doesn't try to play the role of God. We advance religious liberty because to uphold our own freedoms to proclaim the glory of God in Christ requires that other religions have the ability to live and proclaim their beliefs freely, too...the purpose of religious liberty, ultimately, is to advance the cause of the gospel so that God's glory may advance.³⁹

- Andrew T. Walker

- We seek to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom.

Mark 1:15

...and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Matthew 4:23

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

The effective and mass communication of the gospel depends on the freedom to proclaim it. Though it is possible to proclaim the gospel in the face of persecution, the unfettered freedom to do so is much, much preferred. There are billions of souls who are up for eternal grabs, so the unfettered ability to reach them with the good news is a great and wonderful thing, hard to create and difficult to defend.⁴⁰

- Hugh Hewitt

GOD OF FREEDOM, GOD OF JUSTICE

God of freedom, God of justice,
You whose love is strong as death,
You who saw the dark of prison,
You who knew the price of faith
Touch our world of sad oppression
With your Spirit's healing breath.

Rid the earth of torture's terror,
You whose hands were nailed to wood;
Hear the cries of pain and protest,
You who shed the tears and blood
Move in us the power of pity
Restless for the common good.

Make in us a captive conscience
Quick to hear, to act, to plead;
Make us truly sisters, brothers
Of whatever race or creed
Teach us to be full human
Open to each other's need.⁴¹

Taxes

Because we are image bearers, we value all of life. Because we are Christ followers, we joyfully consider how we can provide for all in need.

truths regarding taxes

Mark 12:13-17

And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. And they came and said to him, 'Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone's opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?' But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, 'Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.' And they brought one. And he said to them, 'Whose likeness and inscription is this?' They said to him, 'Caesar's.' Jesus said to them, 'Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.' And they marveled at him.

Romans 13:1-7

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Spending

- Defense

- Budget

- US: \$1.52 trillion⁴²
- MS: \$157,590,655⁴³
- Local: \$9,402,479⁴⁴

Isaiah 61:1

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

- Defense spending should defend our _____.
- Defense spending should defend others' freedom.
- Defense spending should not defend our _____.

2 Timothy 1:7

...for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

The world is not a safe place, yet the security gospel promises that we can ensure our own safety, telling us to believe, I can make myself safe. My community can make itself safe. My nation can make itself safe.⁴⁵

- Kaitlyn Schiess

- Defense spending should not defend us from all _____.

1 Peter 4:12-19

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And 'If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?' Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

▫ All suffering is _____.

▫ Some suffering is _____.

I have come to see that pain and pleasure come to us not as opposites but as Siamese twins, strangely joined and intertwined. Nearly all my memories of acute happiness, in fact, involve some element of pain or struggle.⁴⁶

-Paul Brand (missionary to India)

▫ All suffering has _____.

This union with Christ is the most beautiful subject in the Christian life. It means that I am not a lone fighter here: I am an extension of Jesus Christ. When I was beaten in Romania, He suffered in my body. It is not my suffering: I only had the honor to share His sufferings.⁴⁷

-Josef Ton (Romanian pastor)

Glorifying God means showing by your actions and attitudes that God is glorious to you — that he is valuable, precious, desirable, satisfying. And the greatest way to show that someone satisfies your heart is to keep on rejoicing in them when all other supports for your satisfaction are falling away. When you keep rejoicing in God in the midst of suffering, it shows that God, and not other things, is the great source of your joy.⁴⁸

-John Piper

▫ Some suffering is _____.

The question that seems to me is not why there's so much suffering in the world. It's why there's so little. Why are we not all suffering in hell this very moment in light of our blasphemous hostility to our Creator? One of the reasons that there is suffering in this world, dear friends, and one of the reasons that there's pain in this world, and one of the reasons—in fact, the reason—why there's death in this world, is not because God is not good, but because He is. And a good God will not allow evil to go on unpunished.⁴⁹

-R. C. Sproul

▫ All suffering can produce _____.

The God who has redeemed us counts our soul more valuable than gold, and as gold is refined in the fire, so are we refined. Though we suffer for a moment, the goal of God in our suffering is our redemption, not our destruction... We cannot judge the final goodness and power of God until we see the new heavens and the new earth, where pain is exiled, suffering is vanquished, and death is forever banished. We can trust God because He is worthy of our trust. He is faithful, and trusting Him is the only answer that I know of to the reality of suffering in this world.⁵⁰

- R.C. Sproul

We have come to see that God ordains suffering as the price and the means of finishing the Great Commission.⁵¹

- John Piper

- **Education**

- **Budget**

- US: \$274.36 Billion⁵²
 - MS: \$3,392,383,301⁵³
 - Local: \$148,528,000⁵⁴

Proverbs 1:5

Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance,

Proverbs 16:16

How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.

Proverbs 18:15

An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Ecclesiastes 7:12

For the protection of wisdom is like the protection of money, and the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the life of him who has it.

Daniel 1:17

As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all

literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Luke 2:52

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Acts 7:22

And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds.

- **Poverty**

- **Budget**

- US: \$1.19 trillion⁵⁵
 - MS: \$1,059,920,654⁵⁶
 - Local: \$135,378⁵⁷

Proverbs 22:16

Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to poverty.

Leviticus 23:22

And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God.

Deuteronomy 15:11

For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'

Proverbs 21:13

Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered.

Isaiah 61:1

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound...

Zechariah 7:10

...do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart.

Romans 15:26

For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem.

Galatians 2:10

Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

James 2:15

If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food...

- The Command: Be generous to the poor in your land.
- The Goal: Meet the needs of all the poor in your land.⁵⁸

Leviticus 25:25-28

If your brother becomes poor and sells part of his property, then his nearest redeemer shall come and redeem what his brother has sold. If a man has no one to redeem it and then himself becomes prosperous and finds sufficient means to redeem it, let him calculate the years since he sold it and pay back the balance to the man to whom he sold it, and then return to his property. But if he does not have sufficient means to recover it, then what he sold shall remain in the hand of the buyer until the year of jubilee. In the jubilee it shall be released, and he shall return to his property.

Deuteronomy 15:11

For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'

- Community
 - Scripture

Romans 13:1-14

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must

be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

- Budget

- US: \$2 trillion⁵⁹
- MS: \$1.6 billion⁶⁰
- Local: \$14,987,156⁶¹

- Roads

- Hospitals

- Fire Departments

- Parks

COME, YE SINNERS, POOR AND NEEDY

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy
Weak and wounded, sick and sore
Jesus ready, stands to save you
Full of pity, love and power

Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome
God's free bounty glorify
True belief and true repentance
Every grace that brings you nigh

Come, ye weary, heavy-laden
Lost and ruined by the fall
If you tarry 'til you're better
You will never come at all

I will arise and go to Jesus
He will embrace me in His arms
In the arms of my dear Savior
Oh, there are ten thousand charms⁶²

Refugees & Immigrants

Because we are image bearers, we acknowledge that all people have value. Because we are Christ followers, we show hospitality and demonstrate care for all people who are not in their homeland.

Facts

- How many first-generation immigrants? 45.3 million⁶³
- How many refugees? 25,465⁶⁴
 - Asylum seekers - 1,565,966 waiting for a hearing⁶⁵

Consider our God.

- God is _____.

There is not a speck of dust on the planet that exists apart from the sovereignty of God. God is also sovereign over all nations. The Bible says that God charts the course of countries and holds the rulers of the earth in the palm of his hand. This is good news that we must always remember, for the president of Syria is not sovereign over all, and neither are the leaders of Russia, North Korea, or the United States. God reigns and rules over all of them.⁶⁶

- David Platt

- God is _____.

Isaiah 9:6-7

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Jeremiah 23:5-6

Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal

wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

◦ See the need to pray for justice.

Psalms 82:1-8

God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: 'How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.' They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. I said, 'You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince.' Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations!

◦ See the reality that Jesus is the ultimate display of justice.

Revelation 5:1-10

Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. And one of the elders said to me, 'Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.' And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, 'Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.'

- God is _____.

Titus 2:11

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people...

Ephesians 1:7

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace...

Romans 3:24

...and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...

Titus 3:5

... he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit...

Consider the people.

Now pick any contested political issue of our own day, such as the controversy surrounding Central and South American asylum seekers and other migrants crossing the southern United States border. One group of Christians believes the present laws are just fine. If anything, they believe we need to tighten the restrictions in order to protect our nation and our children. Another group of Christians argues that humanitarian considerations mean allowing as many migrants in as present law allows or even changing the laws to accommodate more. And let's agree that 'protecting our children' and 'showing compassion to asylum seekers' are both biblical impulses. Still, there's a long way to travel between affirming those two biblical principles and determining how to balance them in public policy. How many migrants should a nation permit a year? How many asylum seekers? How will that affect the economy and people's livelihoods? What is the best way to prevent and combat drug and human trafficking? Is a nation obligated to undertake all the costs of processing the hundreds of thousands of migrants who might show up at the borders? What kinds of housing conditions should refugees have at the border? What about child-parent separation? What unintended consequences might follow this decision or that decision?²⁶⁷

- Jonathan Leeman and Andy Naselli

Exodus 23:9

You shall not oppress a sojourner. You know the heart of a sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

- Who is a _____?
 - Someone living in a land that is not their own
 - Immigrants, refugees
 - What does it mean to _____?

Christians are not distinguished from the rest of humanity by country, language, or custom. For nowhere do they live in cities of their own, nor do they speak some unusual dialect nor do they practice an eccentric way of life... They live in their own countries, but only as sojourners; they participate in everything as citizens, and endure everything as foreigners. Every foreign country is their fatherland, and every fatherland is foreign. They marry like everyone else, and have children, but they do not destroy their offspring. They share their food but not their wives. They are in the flesh, but they do not live according to the flesh. They pass their days on earth, but they are citizens of heaven. They obey the established laws; indeed in their private lives they transcend the laws. They love everyone, and by everyone they are persecuted. They are poor, yet they abound in everything. They are dishonored, yet they are glorified in their dishonor; they are slandered, yet vindicated. They are cursed, yet they bless, they are insulted yet they offer respect. When they do good, they are punished as evildoers; when they are punished, they rejoice as though brought to life.⁶⁸
 - 2nd century Christian apologist

◦ We should not be _____ by oppression.

Ecclesiastes 3:16-17

Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness. I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work.

◦ We should be _____ by oppression.

Ecclesiastes 4:1-3

Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them. And I thought the dead who are already dead more fortunate than the living who are still alive. But better than both is he who has not yet been and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun.

Consider the church.

We worship a Jewish, Middle-Eastern, refugee who lived and taught in a time and culture vastly different from our own... We are the 'ends of the earth,' not the main characters of the story.⁶⁹
- Kaitlyn Schiess

- Communion of Saints

1 Peter 2:11

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

- Body of Christ

Ephesians 5:28-31

In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.'

1 Corinthians 12:1-31

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says 'Jesus is accursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except in the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

- _____ of the Kingdom of God

2 Corinthians 5:17-6:1

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

- _____

Amos 5:24

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Consider our role.

- We must be careful in our assessment.
- We must be aware of our responsibilities.

Matthew 22:37-40

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

So the gospel comes with an ethical imperative to love our neighbor, and Scripture is clear that loving our neighbor means opposing social and political barriers to their flourishing.⁷⁰

- Kaitlyn Schiess

Malachi 3:5

Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

Jeremiah 22:3

Thus says the Lord: Do justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place.

◦How can we help?

▪Be _____.

Deuteronomy 10:19

Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

Proverbs 14:21

Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor.

▪ Be _____.

Zechariah 7:10

...do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart.

Exodus 12:49

There shall be one law for the native and for the stranger who sojourns among you.

Exodus 22:21

You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

▪ Be _____.

Leviticus 19:34

You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

▪ Be _____.

Ephesians 3:8-10

To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

▪ Be _____.

Psalms 39:12

Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears! For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers.

O GOD OF EVERY NATION

O God of every nation,
Of every race and land,
Redeem the whole creation
With your mighty hand.
Where hate and fear divide us
And bitter threats are hurled,
In love and mercy guide us,
and heal our strife torn world.

From search for wealth and power
And scorn of truth and right,
From trust in bombs that shower
Destruction through the night
From pride of race and nation
And blindness to your way,
Deliver every nation
Eternal God, we pray!

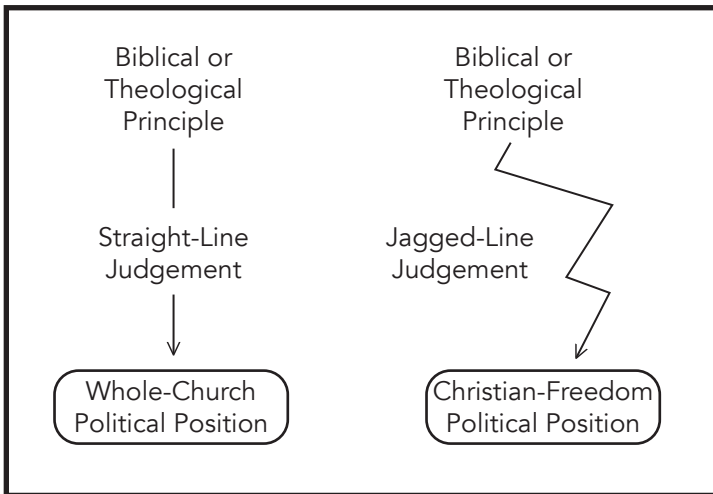
Lord, strengthen those who labor
That all may find release
From fear of rattling saber,
From dread of war's increase
When hope and courage falter,
Lord, let your voice be heard;
With faith that none can alter,
Your servants undergird.

Keep bright in us the vision
Of days when war shall cease,
When hatred and division
Give way to love and peace
Till dawns the morning glorious
When truth and justice reign
And Christ shall rule victorious
O'er all the world's domain.⁷¹

Contrasts

*Because we are image bearers, we ought to practice what we preach.
Because we are Christ followers, we place a greater value on
others than we do ourselves.*

_____ -line Politics vs. _____ -line Politics



This chart is used from Leeman and Neselli's book *How Can I Love Church Members with Different Politics?*

Your conscience is your consciousness of what you believe is right and wrong. That implies that your conscience is not necessarily correct on every issue. What you believe is right and wrong is not necessarily the same as what God believes is right and wrong.⁷²

- Jonathan Leeman and Andy Naselli

Debating Justice vs _____ Justice

- We are to worship God: the way we treat others matters.

Isaiah 1:10-17

Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom! Give ear to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! 'What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.' 'When you come to appear before me, who has required of you this trampling of my courts? Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations— I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

Doing justice means recognizing the dignity of every life...
[and] ensuring the protection of every life.⁷³

- David Platt

Job 34:17

Shall one who hates justice govern? Will you condemn him who is righteous and mighty,

Deuteronomy 10:18-19

He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. 19 Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

Genesis 18:19

For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him."

Deuteronomy 16:19-20

You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous. Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

Psalm 9:7

But the Lord sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for justice,

Psalm 37

Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers! For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb. Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil. For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land. In just a little while, the wicked will be no more; though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there. But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace. The wicked plots against the righteous and gnashes his teeth at him, but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he sees that his day is coming. The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those whose way is upright; their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken. Better is the little that the righteous has than the abundance of many wicked. For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous. The Lord knows the days of the blameless, and their heritage will remain forever; they are not put to shame in evil times; in the days of famine they have abundance. But the wicked will perish; the enemies of the Lord are like the glory of the pastures; they vanish—like smoke they vanish away. The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives; for those blessed by the Lord shall inherit the land, but those cursed by him shall be cut off. The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he delights in his way; though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the Lord upholds his hand. I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread. He is ever lending generously, and his children become a blessing. Turn away from evil and do good; so shall you dwell forever. For the Lord loves justice; he will not forsake his saints. They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off. The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell upon it forever. The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice. The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip. The wicked watches

for the righteous and seeks to put him to death. The Lord will not abandon him to his power or let him be condemned when he is brought to trial. Wait for the Lord and keep his way, and he will exalt you to inherit the land; you will look on when the wicked are cut off. I have seen a wicked, ruthless man, spreading himself like a green laurel tree. But he passed away, and behold, he was no more; though I sought him, he could not be found. Mark the blameless and behold the upright, for there is a future for the man of peace. But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed; the future of the wicked shall be cut off. The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble. The Lord helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

Proverbs 21:3

To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.

Isaiah 56:1

Thus says the Lord: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my righteousness be revealed.

- **We are to wait for God: until He returns it is our job to keep justice.**

Jeremiah 22:3

Thus says the Lord: Do justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place.

Amos 5:15

Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Amos 5:24

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Hebrews 11:33

...who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions...

Rights vs Wants

1 Corinthians 9:22

To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.

- Politics or _____
- Democracy or _____

Us vs Them

Romans 15:5-6

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Anger reveals our loyalties whether we admit it or not. If we have fractured relationships because of politics, we need to ask whether we are placing too much hope in political promises.⁷⁴

- Patrick Schreiner

- 3 action steps:
 - Don't be _____.

Romans 14:1-2

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables.

Romans 15:7

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

- Don't be _____.

Romans 14:3-4

Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

I tell my children that in our house we believe that black lives matter because they matter to Jesus. We don't believe that love is love but that God is love, and that he gives us glimpses of his love through different kinds of relationships. We believe women's rights are human rights, because God made us—male and female—in his image; and for that same reason we believe that babies in the womb have rights as well. We believe God has a special concern for single mothers, orphans, and immigrants because Scripture tells us so again and again. And we believe that diversity does indeed make us stronger, because Jesus calls people from every tribe and tongue and nation to worship him as one body together.⁷⁵

- Rebecca McLaughlin

◦ Don't be a _____.

The world is indeed lost and wrong about God, but that doesn't mean the world is always wrong about us.⁷⁶

- Russell Moore

Conclusion

Confidently trust in the _____ of Christ.

Humbly unite with the _____ of Christ.

Passionately proclaim the _____ of Christ.

IN CHRIST ALONE

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest
drought and storm.
What heights of love,
what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled,
when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of
Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ
I'll stand.⁷⁷

Resources

Books:

Jonathan Leeman, *How the Nations Rage*

Jonathan Leeman and Andy Naselli, *How Can I Love Church Members with Different Politics?*

Russell Moore, *Losing Our Religion*

Russell Moore and Andrew Walker, *The Gospel and Religious Liberty*

Rebecca McLaughlin, *The Secular Creed*

David Platt, *Before You Vote*

David Platt, *Counter Culture*

David Platt, *Secret Church 20: God, Government, and the Gospel*

Kaitlyn Schiess, *The Liturgy of Politics*

Patrick Schriener, *Political Gospel*

End Notes

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