



# Making the Case for Christian Involvement

By Mike Winther

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Should Christians be involved in political matters?

Some believers have doubts as to whether they should be involved in public policy matters. Here are 5 reasons why you should seriously consider knowledge of civil government and involvement in “politics”.

## **You are already involved – whether you know it or not**

Nowhere in Scripture are God’s people directed to contribute to evil. In fact, God’s judgment frequently fell on His people when they found themselves contributing to (or tolerating) evil. But every day American Christians are funding abortions, promoting sexual promiscuity, using schools to destroy children’s belief in God, encouraging slothfulness, destroying families and promoting crime. All of this and much more are being promoted with the tax dollars of every American—including Christians.

Can a tax-paying believer deny that they are actually contributing to these evils? By our inaction, are we guilty of being an accessory to these offenses before God—not only because of

our inaction, but because our resources are being used to perpetrate these offenses?

So the primary question is not SHOULD Christians be involved—without question we are already knee deep in political issues. Instead, we should ask:

“Now that my money and those who represent me are actively using my name and my money to promote an agenda, am I satisfied with the work that is being done on my behalf?”

## **Our marching orders should be clear from Scripture**

Our role as followers of Jesus Christ should not be a passive or casual role. Throughout the Scriptures believers are told to reach out to the world, not to ignore it.

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

It is impossible to overstate the magnitude of this command—it is a huge and aggressive task. This commission is broad in size (all of the nations), its scope (“all that I commanded you”), and its boldness.

The role of God’s people in reaching the hearts and minds of the unbeliever is often described with images of war and battle. In Matthew 16:18, Jesus says the gates of hell are no match for His church. “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (KJV)

Isn’t it interesting that He talks about the “gates” of hell, not its chariots or other mobile weapons. Soldiers and chariots are used to launch an attack, but gates are a defensive tool of those who are under attack. If there is a battle, who must be on the attack? The answer clearly must be Christ’s church. After all, when was the last time you saw an army attacked by a gate?

## **The Great DEcommission**

We spoke above about the Great Commission, but many Christians may be living out the Great DEcommission. What happens if, by inaction, we consent (acquiesce) to the promotion of teachings and observances that contradict Christ’s words?

There is no neutral in the Christian life. Jesus said, “He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.” (Matthew 12:30)

## **Christians should make better leaders & decision makers**

As citizens, there are a number of ways to become involved in public policy—we can hold an elected or appointed office, we can write letters or circulate petitions, we can educate and persuade our friends or family and last, but not least, we can vote. In each of these areas Christians have an important advantage: a strong moral compass.

Admittedly, our nation has been served by a number of great public officials who would not classify themselves as Christians. Our nation has also suffered under some bad officials who were (or who claimed to be) Christians. But if honesty, integrity, and sincere compassion are of any value and if we can generalize just a bit, there are very few groups of people better suited for political leadership than Christians who are truly committed to honoring Jesus and adhering to God’s laws.

Even non-believers, who are honest, will have to admit that they would welcome leaders who exhibit those qualities promoted in Scripture.

It is certain that Christians don’t have a monopoly on honesty and integrity, but at least they know the source of these values and where to find them.

## **The gospel is not easily spread when people are oppressed**

Occasionally, you may hear someone advance the argument that oppression may be good for the church. They will point to the strength and dedication of believers in oppressive nations like Communist China. While it is true that a free and prosperous society tends to have significant numbers of lukewarm believers, it is highly unlikely that China can boast more truly committed Christians than America, Canada, or any other “free” nation.

In fact, much of the “success” of those harassed and impoverished believers in slave nations can be attributed to the resources that come from Christians in free nations. What if there were no free nations? What if the whole world were in the same boat as China? Who would print and smuggle the Bibles? How would Christian radio continue? How would people hear the gospel?

Preserving and expanding political and economic freedom ought to go hand-in-hand with our efforts to spread the gospel.

## **The lives of your children and grandchildren are at stake**

The average American has absolutely no understanding of the horror that results when a country loses its moral perspective. The atrocities of past centuries are no more real than a movie to us. The inhumanity that plagues our current world beyond our shores is largely underreported in our media and conveniently avoided by Americans who choose to ignore uncomfortable and brutal realities.

Is there any difference between the second century mother who was forced to watch the dismembering of her Christian daughter by lions in the Coliseum and the twentieth century Chinese mother who is bound and forcibly put through an assembly line abortion procedure while she screams hysterically for the life of her child? Horrors such as these are commonplace in history as well as in our current time. The common thread in these tragic examples of human suffering is a government that has turned its back on God's laws and usurped the God-given rights of individuals. The most important thread running through virtually all government abuses of power are citizens that either don't understand the principles covered in this course or citizens who are unwilling to expend any effort to promote these principles. In an attempt to spare our readers from nausea and sleepless nights, we will avoid describing the gory and widespread abuses of government-sponsored terror that occur thousands of times every day in our present world, but we must convey to our readers that the issues covered in this course are not just matters of philosophy or theory. These are issues that will directly impact you, your children, and your grandchildren. Hanging in the balance is the difference between: having food or going hungry, freedom or slavery, comfort or torture, worshiping God or worshiping kings.

Put yourself in the place of either of the mothers in the two examples above. If you don't feel a compelling motivation to save your children, your grandchildren or your neighbor's children from horrors such as these, then our civilization is already lost.

## **Food For Thought:**

What would be the state of Christian evangelism if all believers treated evangelism as they do citizenship?

What would be the state of public affairs if all believers treated citizenship as they do evangelism?