

**CROSS TRAINING – CLASS 9**  
**POLITICS IN A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW**

As Christians our focus must be on the great commission but we should never neglect to be involved in other issues that affect our lives, families and ministries. Politics affect all these areas. Don't over-emphasize this issue but don't neglect it either.

**1. What is the Biblical perspective on politics?**

- a. **Government is not the “first choice” so to say.**
  1. **Note:** God's desire is to lead His people directly. Politics become necessary because people choose not to be self-governed. ***The size of government is inversely proportional to the responsibility of its people.***
    - a. **Self governed:** Choose to responsibly act in line with the moral code as given in God's Word, present as each person's conscience and confirmed through logic.
    - b. **Externally governed:** Choose not to be self governed, and therefore external government is necessary by default.
- b. **Government exists to protect and provide freedom for its people.**
  - i. **1Sam.9:16** – God gives Israel a king in order to deliver them from their oppressors, the Philistines.
    1. **Note:** A self-controlled society would have no need for this.
- c. **Government exists to punish evil and maintain justice for its people.**
  - i. **2 Chr.9:8, Pr.20:8, 26, 29:16, Rom.13:1-7** – The government exists to judge evil and remove it from the land.
    1. **Note:** A self-controlled society would have no need for this.
- d. **Government exists to foster a setting where people with honesty and integrity can prosper.**
  - i. **Pr.11:10** – When the righteous prosper the city rejoices, when the wicked perish there are shouts of joy.
    1. **Note:** Government exists to preserve the freedoms of those who are self-controlled.
- e. **Government exists to serve its people (not use them for their own purposes).**
  - i. **Rom.13:1-7** – The government exists to do its people good, protecting them and judging evil.
    1. **Note:** A government exists to protect the rights of the people, not to hinder those rights in favor of their own interests.
- f. **Summary:** Government exists to protect and defend its people, to maintain individual freedom, to maintain justice in society, to enable those who are self-controlled to prosper; all of these issues go back to the government's responsibility to serve the people and not vice versa.

**2. The government and individuals have different Biblical responsibilities.**

- a. **Individually:** we are called to “turn the cheek,” bless those who curse us, pray for those who spitefully use us and do good to our enemies.
- b. **The government:** exists to protect its people, preserve their freedom and maintain justice in society.
  - i. This requires decisive action.

1. **Ex.23:20-33, 34:10-14, Num.21:1-3, 33:50-56, Dt.2:24, 3:1-11, Dt.7, 9:1-6, 2Sam.8, Pr.20:26** – A few examples where government is commanded to destroy and even go to war against evildoers.
2. **Pr.11:21** – Says the wicked must be punished.
3. **Rom.13:1-7** – The government has a sword for a reason.
- ii. **There are multiple reasons God required the Israelites to wage war on these groups.**
  1. Continually attacked Israelites.
  2. Un-paralleled evil (Sexual perversion, rape and incest, murder, theft even baby sacrificing).
  3. Evil religious and cultural ways (which condoned rape, murder and baby sacrifice).
  4. Disease.
  5. Other issues (ex. Jesus' lineage).
- c. **Biblical principal:** a steward must protect what is entrusted to him (**Mt.25:15-28, Lk.11:21**).
  - i. A husband protects his wife and family (**Eph.5:25**).
  - ii. A mother and father protect their children (**Mt.12:29, Mk.3:27, Lk.11:21**).
  - iii. An owner protects his possessions (**Lk.11:21**).
  - iv. An investor protects his investment (**Mt.25:15-28**).
  - v. A government protects its people (**see verses listed previously**).
    1. Even through the use of war.

### 3. The Christian and politics.

- a. The government is put in place by God, for a reason (review).
  - i. This democratic government allows us to be involved.
  - ii. In Biblical times there was little possible involvement.
  - iii. This country was founded on Biblical principals and a Biblical understanding of the fundamental reasons government exists.
    1. This country is unique – don't let our freedoms go!
- b. We have been made stewards of this wonderful gift of freedom of religion, speech, assembly, etc.
  - i. These freedoms allow unparalleled possibilities for the furtherance of the gospel and the Great Commission.
  - ii. Being unknowledgeable about the political climate and un-involved in it are unwise and a bad stewardship of the freedoms we've been given.
  - iii. **Mt.22:17-21, Mk.12:14-17, Lk.20:22-25** – Jesus was knowledgeable about political issues in His day and had a logical position concerning taxes (a political issue).
- c. Every Christian should be focused on the Great Commission, but this doesn't mean that we can't be involved in other issues.
  - i. Politics will greatly impact to what extent we are able to participate in the Great Commission.
  - ii. Politics will impact many other social issues which Christians are very interested in.
    1. Sanctity of life, sanctity of marriage, this country's Biblical foundations, morality in our society and many other issues.
- d. As a Christian, be a good steward of the freedoms that you've been given and stand up for Christian principals in our society (**Especially this year**).