

# A Living Hope: Defending the Faith Without Being Defensive

## *The Christian Political Ethic*

1 Peter 2:13–17

The Lord's Day Morning

July 19, 2020

**The Christian Political Ethic:** Loving our neighbors by recognizing the separate functions of church and state, honoring all public officials, obeying all just laws, and engaging in the political process for the common good.

1. The function of the church: To glorify God by helping people know, love, obey, and exalt Jesus Christ.
2. The function of the state: To maintain a just peace by impartially punishing those who do evil and praising those who do good.
3. The honor due to officials: Respect for someone made in the image of God and ordained by God to use power to serve others.
4. The obedience required of Christians: Lovingly obey all human laws that harmonize with God's laws and respectfully disobey all human laws that contradict God's laws.
5. The political engagement of Christians: Use God-entrusted power to promote the impartial protection of all people under the law.