Biblical Politics:



Becoming biblically informed for voting

Class Topics

[Get on the bus]

[I can see clearly now]

Where do you stand?]

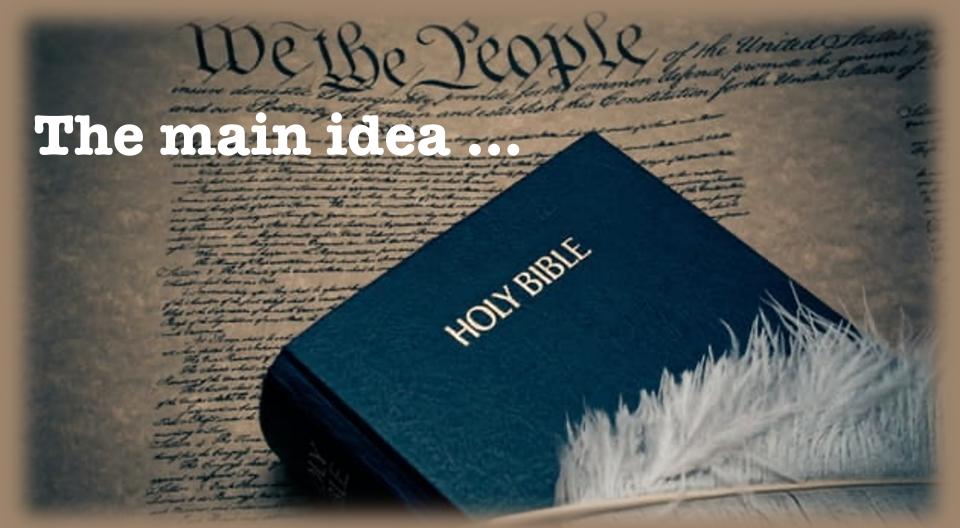
[God's candidate]

[My next move]

Class Times

OLY BIBLE Sundays via Zoom

10:00am-11:15am



God created "government" to facilitate "order" with humans ruling with delegated authority while still submitting to Him to glorify and honor Him.

Some definitions...

Politics: the activities associated with governing, deciding, ruling and submitting

Government: those authorized to govern, make decisions concerning others or rule

Rule: to exercise authority over

Rule (Heb): to have dominion (sovereignty/control) to operate in God's order AND facilitate the best in and from those under your authority

Some definitions ...

Submit: to yield to the authority or will of another

Submit (Grk): to willingly, sometimes obediently, line up under another often for advancement

Glorify: to acknowledge express, and even announce, the works and worth of another

Glorify/Honor (Grk/Heb): to add weight; to make heavy, to highlight as important, the main thing and priority

Honor: to regard and demonstrate respect

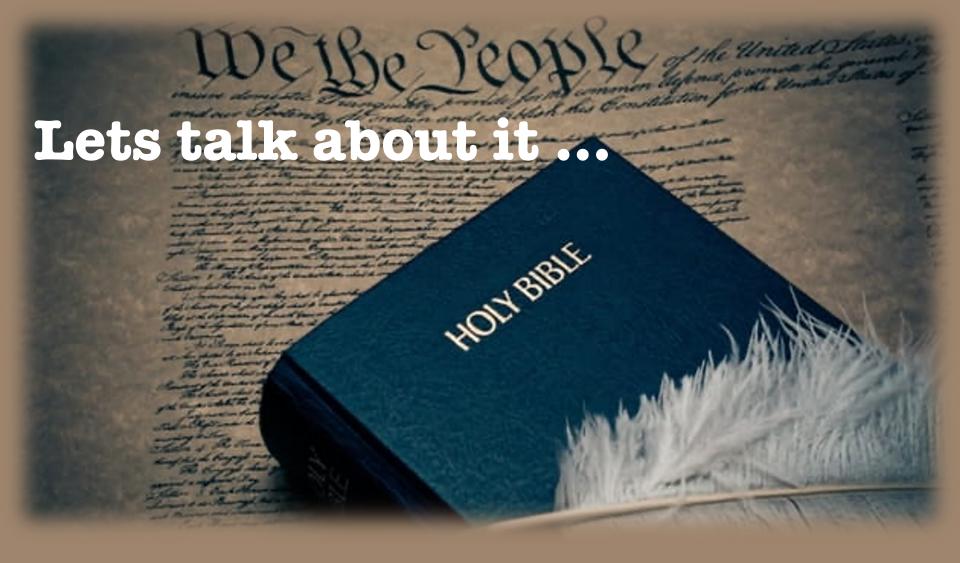
Four types of government ...

Self-government ... Genesis 1:26-31, Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, Matthew 16:27, Romans 13:1; 14:12, Revelation 20:11-15

Family government ... Genesis 1:26-28, Romans 13:1, 1 Corinthians 11:3, Ephesians 5:21-29;31,33; 6:1-4, Colossians 3:18-21,23

Church government ... Matthew 16:18-19, Mark 12:14-17, Romans 13:1,7, 1 Corinthians 6:1-8

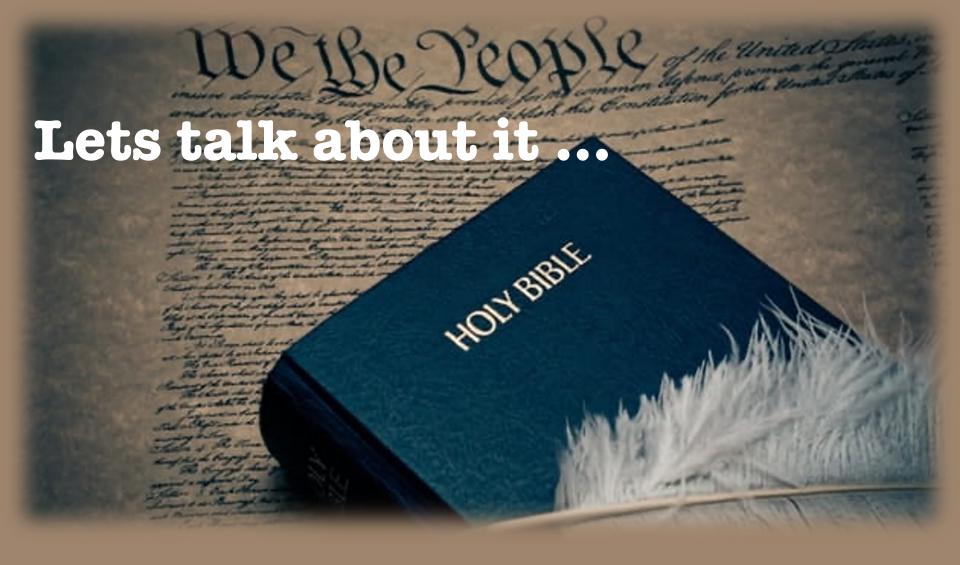
Civil government ... Mark 12:14-17, Romans 13:1-7



The government has legalized divorce. Does that make it right?



Does the civil government have the authority to redefine and legalize same-same marriage? ... Why or why not?



Is there a separation between church and state? How?



Why should Christians engage in politics-meaning why should they understand issues, candidates positions in or to discuss and vote?

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Do I vote for what advances God's kingdom agenda or another agenda?

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When engaging in politics, we need to ensure our motives are to (1) Love and honor God, which is worship and (2) Love others, which is ministry.

Four types of government ...

When engaging in politics, we should pursue that which advances and doesn't hinder God's kingdom agenda of making disciples.

In engaging in politics, our motives should be ...

- 1. To do justly or act righteously
- 2. By loving mercy or acting with lovingkindness
- 3. While walking or <u>living</u> humbly in relationship with God.







Do I vote for what advances God's kingdom agenda or another agenda—like my race?

Example - What about various discriminations?



Do I vote for what advances God's kingdom agenda or another agenda—like my race?

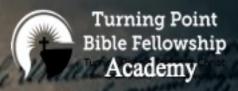
Example - What about helping the poor?



Do I vote for what advances God's kingdom agenda or another agenda—like my race?

Example - What about affirmative action?

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How well can you see? What are the real issues, as God sees them,

that I should respond to?



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The visible issue is not always the real issue and the media perspectives are not always God's perspective.

We need to see clearly to choose clearly!

More than one side ...

Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?" He said, "No; rather I indeed come now as captain of the host of the LORD." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, "What has my lord to say to his servant (Joshua 5:13-14, NASB)?"

- > There is a battle; it's spiritual, not just physical.
- > Humans naturally think of two sides—us vs. them, but God has His own side.
- > Submission to the Lord helps us see clearly to choose a truthful and righteous response.

Choose biblical convictions ... and compassion

"Sanctify them in truth; Your word is truth (John 17:17, NASB)."

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ (Ephesians 4:11-15, NASB)."

Form biblical convictions to make and share biblically informed decisions--but always with compassion



Concerning the issue of immigration ...

Should they be deported, penalized or granted citizenship?



Concerning the issue of policing.

Should they be de-funded, removed or left alone?



Should the wealthy pay more or just their share?



Concerning the issue of abortion

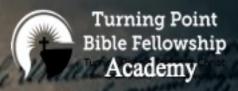
Should judges/congress be pro-life or pro-choice?



Concerning the issue of racism

Is racism systemic or just with individuals?

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WHERE DO NOU STAND?

What's your conviction?
AND
Where's your compassion?

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The main idea ... WHERE DO NOU STAND?

Followers of Christ need to have compassion AND conviction—especially concerning political issues.

Love God and others

"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 foremost commandment. The second is like it, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets (Matthew 22:37-40, NASB)."

- Loving God means living with convictions
- > Loving others means living with compassion

It's both/and; not either/or

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16, NASB)."

➤ God wants His followers professing the <u>truth</u>
AND doing so with, in and through <u>agape-love</u>

Conviction - professing the truth

but **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ (Ephesians 4:15-16, NASB)."

- > Gk: Speaking = professing (confessing claims)
- ➢ Gk: Love = unconditionally seeking another's highest good
- > Professing is claiming and communicating
- Professing truth includes voting, advocating and protesting—making known what should not be hidden

Compassion - sympathizing with the suffering

Professing in love is communicating conviction with context, compassion, carefulness and clarity

Where do you stand?



Concerning legalizing marijuana ...

- 1. What should we know to be compassionate?
- 2. What's the truth to form a conviction?

Where do you stand?



Concerning gun ownership regulation ...

- 1. What should we know to be compassionate?
- 2. What's the truth to form a conviction?



Concerning immigration regulation ...

- 1. What should we know to be compassionate?
- 2. What's the truth to form a conviction?



Concerning police funding ...

- 1. What should we know to be compassionate?
- 2. What's the truth to form a conviction?



Concerning access to healthcare ...

- 1. What should we know to be compassionate?
- 2. What's the truth to form a conviction?



Concerning regulating governing officials ...

- 1. What should we know to be compassionate?
- 2. What's the truth to form a conviction?



Concerning race relations ...

- 1. What should we know to be compassionate?
- 2. What's the truth to form a conviction?



Concerning health issues ...

- 1. What should we know to be compassionate?
- 2. What's the truth to form a conviction?



Concerning COVID-19 mask requirements ...

- 1. What should we know to be compassionate?
- 2. What's the truth to form a conviction?



Concerning abortion ...

- 1. What should we know to be compassionate?
- 2. What's the truth to form a conviction?

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Choosing candidates when no one fully aligns



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"The king's heart is [like] channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes (Proverbs 21:1, NASB)."

> What truths about God should we remember when choosing candidates?

"The king's heart is [like] channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes (Proverbs 21:1, NASB)."

- > Choose with <u>submission</u> and <u>openness</u> to God's will and capability.
 - God can use a Saul to prepare for a David.
 - > God can change a Nebuchadnezzar.
 - > God can remove a Belshazzar.
 - > God can use a Cyrus to liberate.
 - God can change a Manasseh's 2nd term.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you (Psalm 32:8, NASB)."



> How can prayer help us choose a candidate?

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you (Psalm 32:8, NASB)."



- > Choose by voting prayerfully.
 - > Ask God for which candidate to vote.
 - > Ask God how to vote on the position.
 - > Note: God's answers align with His word.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you (Psalm 32:8, NASB)."



> What are challenges to praying for which candidate to vote?

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you (Psalm 32:8, NASB)."



- > Challenges include:
 - Difficulties in discerning God's voice
 - Difficulties in silencing internal thoughts, emotions and anxieties
 - > Difficulties in filtering external voices & events

"Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth (John 17:17, NASB)."



> How do you convert your biblically informed convictions into a candidate choice?

"Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth (John 17:17, NASB)."

- > Choose by voting biblically.
 - Which positions align with my biblically informed convictions?
 - ➤ Which candidates share more of my biblically informed convictions?
 - Which candidates are aligned with my prioritized biblically informed convictions?
 - ➤ Which candidates share more of my positions when combined under biblical priorities—like loving/honoring God and loving/helping others?

"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 (Matthew 28:19-20, NASB)."



How do you prepare for the next election and generation concerning candidate selection?

"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 (Matthew 28:19-20, NASB)."

- > Train by discipling biblically.
 - > Make disciples who live by the 7 biblical practices:
 - 1. Evangelizing and Discipling
 - 2. Submitting to the Lord Jesus Christ
 - 3. Using the gifts of the Spirit
 - 4. Displaying the fruit of the Spirit
 - 5. Fellowshipping with the saints
 - 6. Resolving conflict as a peacemaker
 - 7. Modeling God's love and worshipping Him

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What's my next move?

"And <u>Jesus</u> came up and <u>spoke</u> to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, <u>baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit</u>, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age (Matthew 28:18-20, NASB)."

> No matter the outcome of the election, the Lord Jesus Christ still has all authority!

What does that mean?

"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 (Matthew 28:19-20, NASB)."

> Train by discipling biblically.

- Make disciples who live by the 7 biblical practices:
 - 1. Evangelizing and Discipling
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"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 foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets (Matthew 22:37-40, NASB)."

> No matter the outcome of the election, the command to love remains.

What does that mean?

"He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8, NASB)?"

No matter the outcome of the election, God's requirement on how to live remains.

What does that mean?

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God (Matthew 5:9, NASB)."

No matter the outcome of the election, we are to be peacemakers.

What does that mean?

ECION