

XV. The Christian and the Social Order

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

[Exodus 20:3-17](#); [Leviticus 6:2-5](#); [Deuteronomy 10:12](#); [27:17](#); [Psalm 101:5](#); [Micah 6:8](#); [Zechariah 8:16](#); [Matthew 5:13-16,43-48](#); [22:36-40](#); [25:35](#); [Mark 1:29-34](#); [2:3ff.](#); [10:21](#); [Luke 4:18-21](#); [10:27-37](#); [20:25](#); [John 15:12](#); [17:15](#); [Romans 12-14](#); [1Corinthians 5:9-10](#); [6:1-7](#); [7:20-24](#); [10:23-11:1](#); [Galatians 3:26-28](#); [Ephesians 6:5-9](#); [Colossians 3:12-17](#); [1 Thessalonians 3:12](#); [Philemon](#); [James 1:27](#); [2:8](#).

1. We believe that every Christian is called to exalt Christ personally and in our culture
2. We believe that the means and methods for improving society and establishing righteousness must be grounded in the salvation of individuals.
3. We believe that we unite with Christ when we oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography.
4. We believe we are working with the Lord when we work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick.
5. We believe we speak for the Lord when we speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death.
6. We believe each Christian is called to be an influence for Christ and righteousness in the workplace, politics, and society.
7. We believe in working for the good of others in partnership with others without compromising our loyalty to Christ and His truth.

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The dilemma of today:

What does it mean to compromise our loyalty to Christ and His truth?

- Is it wrong to work with an _____ to feed the hungry?
- Is it wrong to work with a _____ to care for the homeless?
- Is it wrong to work with a _____ to care for the unborn?
- Can we partner with denominations who ordain _____ in the pro-life effort?
- Can we partner with _____ _____ to fight true racism and injustice?

I'd like to take you back to the second sentence in Article XV. "Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ."

The good that we are called to do is supposed in the context, or under the umbrella, of reaching the lost. But, I believe most people are trying to reach the lost in the context of doing good. That inversion creates a dilemma that I believe we can avoid if our lives are about making disciples in everything, it allows us to partner with the people around us in doing good unless it compromises our loyalty to Christ and the truth.