

“Politics”

Honest Conversations Message Series Week 5

Dave Garber, Elder Board Chairman

August 4, 2019

A. What is the biblical view of government?

1. The Triune God establishes government as His servants to provide structures for the governance of people. (Romans 13:1-7; Colossians 1:16-18)
2. God establishes all governments for His purposes. (Daniel 2:20-21, 4:17, 5:21; Romans 13:1)

B. What is the biblical view regarding the role of the Church?

1. The Church is to proclaim the gospel, make disciples of all nations, and to be His witnesses. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8)
2. The Church is to help believers grow in the knowledge of Christ to help them become mature in Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13)

C. How should the Church interact with government?

1. The Church is to proclaim the gospel by all means regardless of the government's laws. (Acts 4:19-20)
2. The Church is to submit to government leaders and humbly obey human laws until the point government laws violate God's directives and laws. (1 Peter 2:13; Acts 5:29)
3. The Church should pray for those in authority, both the good and evil. (1 Timothy 2:2)

D. What should the mindset be of the Christian if the government is completely against the Church and Christians?

1. Expect persecution; it's a given. Decisions that result in martyrdom need not be feared. We know the last chapter. (Matthew 5:11; 2 Timothy 3:12)
2. While Christians are citizens of earthly nations in this life, it is necessary to remember our heavenly citizenship (Philippians 3:20), which is eternal, cannot be taken from us. As ambassadors, we are to boldly and humbly share the grace of God and the truth of the gospel. (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)
3. Scripture indicates that when a decision needs to be made that would result in civil disobedience, an individual has the option to either suffer, defend, or flee. (Acts 7:56-60, 22:1; Matthew 24:15-20)
4. Whenever possible, Christians are to use their existing rights as citizens to speak God's truth to those unjust in government and challenge unjust laws as Paul did when claiming his Roman citizenship. (Acts 22:22-27)