

Refuge City Church — October 30, 2022

“Perspective: Politics”

Introduction

- **What is the importance of having perspective?** What does perspective do for us?
- That’s the focus of this series, as we discuss our biblical worldview, politics, and culture.
 - How are we to think about the world around us, and how are we to live our faith in Jesus in the political and cultural arena?
- The ‘world’ will do everything in it’s power to eliminate God from every aspect of life. How are we going to counteract that influence?
 - **Romans 12:2**, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”
 - **QUOTE:** “This re-programming of the mind does not take place overnight but is a lifelong process by which our way of thinking is to resemble more and more the way God wants us to think.” [Douglas J. Moo]
- What’s the difference between ‘Government’ and ‘Politics’?
 - *Government:* “the organization, machinery, or agency through which a political unit exercises authority and performs functions.”
 - I don’t think too many in America have a problem with the structure of our government [republic, democracy, freedom, separation of powers, checks & balances, etc.]
 - *Politics:* “Actions, policies, and practices by which those in government operate.”
 - This is where people catch ‘feelings’ towards those in authority.

Your worldview and politics?

- *Worldview:* The lens through which you look to see & understand the world.
- Political parties, conservative/liberal, elections & voting, laws/propositions... What position do we take on all the various issues that arise in the political spectrum?
- How are we to think, act, and behave towards the President, members of Congress, state/local officials, and especially the decisions they make?
 - **QUOTE:** “If Christ is King and God is sovereign and our citizenship is ultimately in heaven, then we shouldn’t have our equilibrium thrown off too much by any election.” [Albert Mohler Jr.]
 - **QUOTE:** “We who are followers of Jesus of Nazareth have been given a greater power than the politics of our country. It is the power of redemption... We are not going to redeem America from the outside through political leadership — as important as that may be. The only power that is going to redeem people comes from within.” [Cal Thomas]
- **Key Understanding:** If we can destroy the temple to our own satisfaction, we will have a better perspective on the authority God places over us.

The Biblical Perspective [Romans 13:1-7]

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.”

- “*Submission*”: placed under one’s authority.. It is an attitude of compliance and support.
 - I believe Paul was very careful not to use the word ‘*obey*’.
 - This would have placed him, Peter, and every Christian under even more scrutiny.
 - **Acts 5:28-29**, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.”
 - Obedience to God supersedes our obedience to man, but does not eliminate the call to submission as God intended.
 - God is the one who placed that individual in authority, we are subject to His overarching lordship.
 - **Daniel 4:17**, “...the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.”
 - Yet even with some in authority who do not believe, we are still subject.
 - **Daniel 6**: When Daniel was entrapped by those in leadership, he knew he was in ultimate submission to God over man, *yet* still received consequences from man; as did Jesus and the Apostles.
 - Jesus said that we are to submit ourselves to those in authority when he claimed, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” [Mark 12:17]
 - And yet, regardless of that submission to Roman authority, it cost him his life...because it was apart of the greater plan of God!
 - **Isaiah 55:8**, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.”
 - This is why we shut down in-person gatherings for a season when Covid-19 hit.
 - It wasn’t a popular decision for some, and they let me know it.
 - So what changed? It was *not* the opinion of a few, I’ll tell you that much!
 - When our Governor decided to put his hand in to the church and tell us what we should do, or not do, within corporate worship.

- That's when we decided that God's authority superseded obedience to the state.
- Yes, we may not like what we are asked to do. It may not coincide with our feelings. But what you like/don't like, or your conservative/liberal/Republican/Democrat feelings don't matter when we are servants of God Almighty!
- **Take Action:** We are called to submission, respect, and honor
 - **Romans 13:7**, "Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed."

Our response to authority who defies God

- Politics are unavoidable, and those who are placed in those positions are not always going to stand on a biblically-centered moral foundation.
1. *Rebellion & Revolution*
 - **Declaration of Independence:** We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness... That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government..."
 - Is outright rebellion to the laws of the land the right Christian response?
 - It might make you *feel* better, but you are still violating the command of God as outlined in scripture, unless, the state is telling you to do something contrary to God's law.
 2. *Fight or Flight?*
 - The response of some throughout history is to flee and find a location more suitable to their spiritual conscience.
 - Huguenots: Persecuted Protestants during the 16th-17th centuries emigrated from France.
 - Puritans/Pilgrims: Left the Anglican Church in England and immigrated to America.
 - "CeeCees" of the 21st Century [[Conservative Californians](#)]: left the state due to liberal ideology and 'hurt feelings' to settle in what are now referred to as "red states".
 - **Matthew 10:23**, "When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next..."
 - I have no problem with the mentality of the CA Exodus [[which is not about persecution](#)]. My only hope is that everyone who leaves has seriously committed that to prayer.
 3. *Vocal Change*
 - Every Christian has been given a tool to use in such a way as to cause a revolution without a revolt... your voice.
 - We can exercise the freedom we have to effectively promote change through the democratic process... It is a right we've been given and must use!

- 1st Amendment Rights: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”
- **QUOTE:** “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” [MLK Jr.]
- **QUOTE:** “Christian withdrawal opens a moral vacuum susceptible to influences that pressure government to move outside the purview designated by God.” [David Closson]
- **Verse 5:** “Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience.”
- **QUESTION:** Can you stand “good/clear” before the Lord in what you say and do towards those who act and politick with an anti-God state of mind?
- **QUOTE:** “Christian obedience to the state is never blind—it obeys with the eyes of conscience wide open.” [Pastor David Guzik]
- Understand the difference between the government’s policies that requires us to disobey God’s law, versus one who permits things to be done outside of God’s will. [Laws that permit & protect Abortion, Gambling, Homosexuality, etc.]
- **Example:** Governor Newsom’s campaign for Abortion.
 - Billboards that call for women to come to CA to get their abortion.
 - He cites **Mark 12:31**, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”
 - **VIDEO:** “This is your neighbor”
 - Vote NO on Proposition 1!
 - Seeks to make Abortion, without limitations up to the moment of birth, apart of the State’s constitution.
 - Speak up for those who can’t defend themselves.
- Our form of government allows us to make changes that are more in line with biblical values.
 - If we don’t voice our disapproval of things that are contrary to God’s Word, our silence equates to approval.
 - Do you believe we live under God-ordained authority?
 - Do you believe we live under a God-ordained system of government?
 - And within our system of government, we have been given freedom to participate in the process!
 - **QUOTE:** “...that government *of the people, by the people, for the people*, shall not perish from the earth.” [Abraham Lincoln]
 - We must participate as ‘shareholders’ in the firm!

How do we think and participate in politics? [Last Week: Ask, Identify, Seek]

- I. Pray for those in public office.
 - **1 Timothy 2:1-2**, “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.”

2. How can we view proper policy as a means of fulfilling the Great Commandment?
 - Use your voice & ability to advocate for our “neighbor”!
 - **Jeremiah 29:7**, “But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”
3. Commit yourself to the reading & understanding of the candidates & issues.
 - Find out who’s running for office and what they stand for.
 - Research what’s at stake by those who take office, and what laws/propositions are on the ballot.
 - How are they going to affect the welfare of our city, state, and country?
 - Get Informed! [[Election Info](#)]
4. Be Kingdom-Minded above all else!
 - **John 18:36**, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”
 - **Colossians 1:13**, “He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,”
 - **Colossians 3:1-2**, “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”
 - **Philippians 3:20**, “But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,”
 - **1 Peter 2:9, 13-17**, “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light...[use your voice to advocate for biblical principles at the ballot box]...Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.”