

Thinking Biblically About Political Involvement

Selected Scripture

I. Why are all people held accountable to the same biblical standards?

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A. God created this world.

*In the beginning, God created the heavens
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So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them (v. 27).

B. God reigns supremely over all His creation, actively guiding all things according to His purpose for His glory.

*In him we have obtained an inheritance,
having been predestined according to the
purpose of him who works all things
according to the counsel of his will
(Eph.1:11)*

*For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's
womb. (Psalm 139:13)*

C. The reason why all people are held to the same standards is because everyone has been uniquely created by God, in the image of God, to live in a world governed by God, according to the will of God.

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse (Rom.1:19-20).

For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness (Rom.2:14-15a).

D. The Bible makes it clear that the moral standards that God reveals in the Bible are the moral standards that all people will be judged by.

Peter told them that the non-Christians around them *are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead* (1 Peter 4:4–5).

Paul told them that *the God who made the world and everything in it (Acts 17:24) also commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.*” (Acts 17:30-31)

“This truth has significant implications for how Christians understand political questions that involve right and wrong. For example, if God says that murder is wrong (Ex. 20:13), and if it is determined that the command not to murder applies to preborn children and to those who are elderly or very ill, it clearly affects how one views laws regarding abortion and euthanasia.”

- Wayne Grudem

II. Why should Christians be involved in the political process in our country?

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A. Throughout the Bible, we see God's people involved in what we would call politics or governmental affairs.

Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar, the king:
Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity.

The prophet Jeremiah told the Jewish people who were in exile in Babylon to:
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 (Jer. 29:7).

“The true ‘welfare’ of such a city will be advanced through governmental laws and policies that are consistent with God’s teaching in the Bible, not by those that are contrary to the Bible’s teachings.”

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B. Jesus clearly stated that He expects us to be actively involved in our world:

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You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. (Mt.5:13)

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matt 5:14-16).

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

(Phi.3:20-21)