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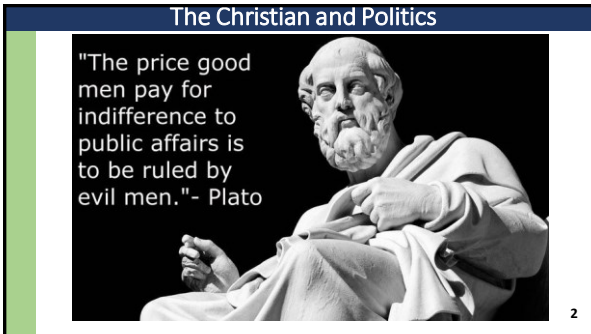
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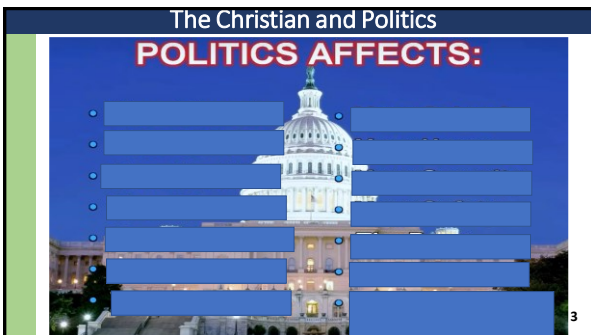
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The Christian and Politics

The two forbidden conversational topics are alleged to be "politics" and "religion" – so why is it that these two are considered forbidden?

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The Christian and Politics

- **Culture is upstream from politics**; our problems are not first of all political, our problems are cultural, and they come from sinful hearts.
- The "pop culture" is sending messages to us everyday, but we just don't think about it all that much, and most of the messaging is coming from leftist ideology.
- "Pop Culture" - Cultural activities or commercial products reflecting, suited to, or aimed at the tastes of the general masses of people. (dictionary.com)

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The Christian and Politics

- For example, how many TV programs now feature openly homosexual men and women in flattering roles?
- Thirty years ago we would have been shocked to find homosexuals being cast as the morally upstanding people in society.
- Slowly but surely the idea of so called "gay marriage" was legalized and, to many people, normalized.

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**The Christian and Politics**

**How TV Brought Gay People Into Our Homes**

May 12, 2012 - 4:30 PM ET  
 Heard on All Things Considered

NPR STAFF



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**The Christian and Politics**

- Gay marriage was legalized by guess who, that's right legalized by politicians who think they are doing the will of the people. **Politics and who we elect, matters!**
- One of the main arguments of the "Gay Rights" activists was "**we can't help who we love**".
- It will not be long before we will hear the exact same argument from pedophiles – the left is persistent and incremental just like their father, the devil.

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**The Christian and Politics**

- Another consideration when it comes to the Christian's involvement in politics is found in Romans 13.
- Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. ***For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.***
- To those who argue that Christians should avoid politics I ask, would God ordain a system of societal governance that he would want us to avoid?

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The Christian and Politics

- Christians have dual citizenship.
- Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints **in Christ Jesus** who are **in Philippi**.
- The believers at Philippi were “in Christ”, and they were also “in Philippi” – one place of residence is permanent and the other is temporary, but both are real.

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The Christian and Politics

- John 17:15 **I do not pray that You should take them out of the world**, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 **They are not of the world**, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 **As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world**. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. NKJV
- God has ordained that we be in the world after our conversion, to engage the world in order to show Christ and exalt Him.

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The Christian and Politics

- Since the political system we live under affects nearly every aspect of our lives, including religious freedom, we need to engage.
- **We could argue that engaging our culture is part of the great commission.**
- Do not expect help, (revival) to come from Harrisburg or Washington – they have no vested interest in it.

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The Christian and Politics

• 2<sup>nd</sup> Chron 15:3 For a long time Israel has been without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without law; 4 but when in their trouble they turned to the Lord God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found by them. 5 And in those times there was no peace to the one who went out, nor to the one who came in, but great turmoil was on all the inhabitants of the lands. 6 So nation was destroyed by nation, and city by city, for God troubled them with every adversity. NKJV

• **“If God is your problem, then only God is your solution.”** Tony Evans

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The Christian and Politics

• If God is causing our distress, then we need to seek him, not government.

• We should recognize that all of our problems are really spiritual ones – whether it is a fiscal, or a moral issue the root is always a spiritual weakness or deficiency.

• **Our world is blind to this truth, we cannot afford to be.**

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The Christian and Politics

• What a shame it is that today, when so many Christians are disengaging from politics, also happens to be the exact time when our voices are needed the most!

• The forces of lewd behavior, abortion, and all other kinds of evil have become so loud that evidently the church thinks their volume equates to power.

• **The average Christian wants to walk away in disgust and that is exactly what the enemy would have us do.**

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The Christian and Politics

- **At a bare minimum, the Christian must vote** – and in order to know who to vote for we must be informed on one question in particular.
- Joshua 5:13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood 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?**”
- The question to each candidate should be, “**where do you stand?**” Do you stand for righteousness, or for evil?

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The Christian and Politics

If your choice is between the personal righteousness of a candidate, or their righteous policies, which one would you favor?

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The Christian and Politics

- Jeremiah 29:4 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were carried away captive, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit. 6 Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters—that you may be increased there, and not diminished. 7 And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace. NKJV

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The Christian and Politics

- Jeremiah was writing to God’s people in Babylonian captivity for their persistent sin against God and we have some things in common with captive Israel.
- They were living in a hostile culture – **so are we.**
- They longed to be delivered and be home – **so do we.**
- They had to find a way to “get by” despite their circumstances – **so do we.**

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The Christian and Politics

- What Jeremiah told them would be appropriate for us as well.
- Hunker down, make the most of your circumstances, raise your families, plant gardens, and increase your numbers.
- The culture would not be an advantage for them, but then the culture has never been a friend to the godly.

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The Christian and Politics

“Like the early church, today’s Christians need to prepare to live as ‘minorities in a pagan culture.’”

Rod Dreher

Are we ready for that?

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The Christian and Politics

- It is my opinion that Christians should be involved in politics.
- **God is providentially in control, but in His providence He has also ordained the means as well as the ends.**
- So don't say, "God, in His providence, will put in office whoever He determines", but say, "God may use my vote to put into office those He determines."

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The Christian and Politics

- Prov 14:34 Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.
- There are spiritual forces and principles in play in almost everything we do.
- When a nation seeks and supports righteousness good things tend to follow, and when we do not we should not expect good results.

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The Christian and Politics

- The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes. NKJV
- In the big scheme of things it does not matter who is in the White House because whoever it is, is subject to the Lord of Heaven and Earth.
- Our responsibility is the same whether the we like the president or not – pray.

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The Christian and Politics

- Who is president has zero bearing on our eternity, but does have an effect on our today.
- **1 in 5 professing Christians are not registered to vote – that is a gross dereliction of duty.**
- When we don't vote we cede power to the enemies of God.

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The Christian and Politics

The role of the Christian, and the role of the church are not the same – because the church speaks for a group of people and does not enjoy the same rights as the individual.

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The Christian and Politics

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.*

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### The Christian and Politics

- Beware of any politician saying things like, “I believe in the freedom of everyone to **worship** as they see fit”.
- Worship and practicing our religion are not the same thing – one generally happens in a church, the other is how we do life everyday.
- Never put our hope in a candidate, or a party.
- We should vote, speak out when necessary, and pray. <sup>28</sup>

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### Questions

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