

## Faith and Politics, part 1- **Politics and a Religious Spirit**

Politics: Romanized Gk. *Pilitika*: the affairs of the city

Religious people have a particular bent toward politics because religious people have a desire to see things change for the better

To be political is to be concerned with or involved in the internal governmental affairs of your city, state or nation.

Politics often has little or no overlap with accomplishing the purposes of the kingdom of God.

The kingdom of God MUST come to bear upon the kingdoms of this world, but the kingdoms of the world never will move the kingdom of God a single inch.

Politics at its best is made up of good people with good intentions trying to effect some positive change in their time in government.

Politics at its worst teaches men to seek to please each other rather than God, to make enemies of all party opposition, and to love money, seek power, and to hold onto both at any cost.

### **1 Samuel 8:4-7**

<sup>4</sup>Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah; <sup>5</sup>and they said to him, "Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations." <sup>6</sup>But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the Lord. <sup>7</sup>The Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them.

This was the tragic moment when a people led by a faithful God, flawed as they were, chose to follow a man instead.

God had to remind Samuel that he was not being replaced, but the people were replacing God!

They wanted to get rid of this hard life of faith for a life of sight, like all the other nations.

Israel's greatness was defined by God: He was King and Judge, God went out before their armies and won their victories!

God told Samuel to give them their king, and to warn them: his power would corrupt him, and they would pay the price!

### **Matthew 4:17**

<sup>17</sup>From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

When Jesus came on the scene, He began eagerly recapturing hearts, and turning them back to God again!

Our national loyalties would be forever supplanted, and replaced with a zeal for a much larger Kingdom!

### **Hebrews 11:8-10**

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign *land*, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; <sup>10</sup>for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Augustine described two societies living together in opposition on earth: The City of God and The City of Man.

These “cities” symbolize faith and unbelief, and are at odds with each other.

Christians have a cultivated detachment from this world, and a fixed hope on a future, eternal city: the City of God.  
Joyfully accepting seizure of property, not loving lives so as to shrink from death

The lost live for the City of Man- the perishing world and all its pleasures- leaving the unredeemed guilty before God.

Politics is not innately sinful, but has a dangerous and seductive appeal to religious people!

The danger of politics is that it is often the intersection where the City of Man lures citizens away from the City of God.

The transfer become apparent as the political become more religious, and the religious, in turn, become more political.

Christians growing in passion for politics often do so because they have lost their passion for Jesus and God’s Kingdom.

The resulting compromise leads to a uniquely seductive form of corruption- politics at its worst.

Jesus’ attitude toward the political

#### **John 6:14-15**

<sup>14</sup>Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.” <sup>15</sup>So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.

#### **John 11:46-53**

<sup>46</sup>But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done. <sup>47</sup>Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, “What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs. <sup>48</sup>If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”

#### **John 12:10**

<sup>10</sup>But the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also; <sup>11</sup>because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and were believing in Jesus.

The people wanted to King Him, and the leaders wanted to kill Him. Sounds like the makings of a political revolution!

Jesus, already King of God’s Kingdom of God, could not be lured into the political realm!

Jesus also knew that He could accomplish more actual good in 1 night of prayer than in a lifetime spent disputing policy.

Since we must focus, and align with Jesus in everything, where should our attention be?

#### **Matthew 6:9-10**

<sup>9</sup>“Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. <sup>10</sup>‘Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Don’t let politics seduce or replace your faith in Jesus, or supplant the work He has called you to in His Kingdom.

**Galatians 6:9:** <sup>9</sup>Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.