

Christianity's Profound Impact Being Salt and Light in the Culture Requires Involvement in Government and Public Policy

In their book *What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?* Dr. D. James Kennedy and Jerry Newcombe survey history and the profound contributions to the world Christians have made for the betterment of all. Keep in mind that a great many of these improvements occurred because of Christians' influence in government and public policy on multiple levels. The resulting laws and policies have been undergirded by the biblical principles that affirm intrinsic human dignity and worth.

Kennedy and Newcombe highlight how Christians have acted to

1. defend and preserve innocent human life,
2. assist the poor and disadvantaged,
3. systematically educate the masses, and
4. promote the recognition of rights as God-given and worked to enact laws to protect freedom and liberty.
5. Furthermore, largely because Christians believed that members of God's highest creation, humanity, can learn about His world through observation and experimentation, modern science emerged.
6. Emphasizing the biblical work ethic, property rights, and freedom of choice, Christians also have made tremendous contributions to the fields of labor and economics.
7. They've upheld a sexual ethic that has restrained would-be predators, protected the innocent, and strengthened the family and society.
8. Christians have cared for the sick, some of whom were abandoned even by their families. These actions foreshadowed their work in founding and operating hospitals, facilities that have more than significantly improved and enhanced healthcare.
9. Christians also have effectively encouraged their fellow human beings to treat all people with dignity and respect. In a world where cruelty was and is all too common, Christians have upheld decency and discouraged savage and barbaric behavior.
10. The Christian influence on the arts, including music, has been profound.

Disclaimer: We are not talking here about socialist redistribution schemes where government takes from the wealthy and redistributes resources to help those in need. In such a case, government becomes god. Authentic Christians have always practiced and advocated charity, which by definition is voluntary, not forced.

For reflection and discussion: Review the above list. Which items involved or likely involved work in the government or the public policy arena on the part of Christians to achieve?

Source: James Kennedy and Jerry Newcombe, *What If Jesus Had Never Been Born?* (Nashville: Nelson, 1994). The above ten-item list is a summary of various arenas in which Christianity has had a profound influence, not a list of quotations from the book.

For more information on Christianity's profound impact on the world through the centuries, visit <https://wordfoundations.com/2018/08/17/the-impact-of-worldview-christianity/>.