

Exposing Enemies Within the Church: A 7-Session Bible Study Series
Session 7: Social Justice: A Counterfeit Gospel: Part 2

Christians Have a Duty to Be Engaged in the Arenas of Culture and Public Policy

The following are among Bible passages we might include in a list of passages mandating that Christians stay engaged in the realms of culture and public policy: Exodus 18:21; Proverbs 14:34; Matthew 5:13-16; 22:15-22; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; 1 Peter 2:13-17. Recall the principles you studied in Session 5 on pietism about what God's Word says and doesn't say about government in Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:13-17. While we as Christians as a general rule are to obey the government, we must not forget that the following principles also are true.

1. God did not authorize government to do whatever it wants to do.
2. Government's main task is to commend or reward those who do "good" or right and to penalize or punish those who do "evil" or wrong. By good and evil, Paul and Peter meant right and wrong according to God's law, including the Ten Commandments.
3. The authority government has is delegated by God and limited. It is not absolute.
4. Because government's authority is delegated by God, God holds government accountable for how it uses the authority He authorized it to use.

To this list we can add a fifth principle: Christians have a duty to work to hold government accountable to do what God has assigned it to do. In other words, it is perfectly appropriate for believers and churches to insist that human governments properly respect and obey God's moral law. This is especially true in a republic like the United States of America, where "We the People" are in charge.

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To those misled by pietism we say, "Jesus encouraged His followers to pray, 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done *on earth* as it is in heaven,' (Matt. 6:10) not merely, 'May Your will be accomplished in heaven and throughout eternity.'"