

POLITICS ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE by Wayne Grudem

by Catherine Snow

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1. What led you to write your latest book, “Politics According to the Bible?”

I’ve been teaching biblical ethics for nearly 30 years at the graduate school level. I increasingly realized that many of the issues that I taught had implications in politics. I taught on the role of government and whether war is just or unjust. I taught on capital punishment, abortion, euthanasia, and the definition of marriage. I taught on many ethical issues, but those really applied to political issues today.

2. In your book addressed the five wrong views about Christians and government. What are they?

The first one is that government should compel religion or force people to follow a certain religious viewpoint. That’s wrong because genuine religious faith can’t be forced or compelled.

The second mistake is that government should exclude religion from the public square. And that’s wrong because – as Christians – we believe the Bible gives us God’s moral standards and we should have the right to speak those publicly and bring influence for good on government.

The third wrong view is a strange view that government is evil and demonic and Christians shouldn’t get involved in it. I don’t think that’s true because Romans 13 says that the government is God’s servant for your good.

The fourth wrong view is that Christians should do evangelism and not politics. That’s a common view in churches today to just do spiritual things and stay out of the political realm. The problem with that is that the New Testament tells us that God calls us to do good works. Jesus said ‘Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven.’ And in Ephesians 2:10, Paul says that ‘We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.’ So, ‘good works’ includes obeying your God in terms of marriage and raising children and how to work in the workplace. I think good works also includes how Christians should influence government and Christians should seek to influence government for good.

The last wrong view is that Christians should do politics and not evangelism. And, of course, that is a big mistake. That is saying if we just get the right laws and the right candidates elected then our nation will be just fine and that forgets the central message of the New Testament which is believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.

3. What would be one caution and one encouragement you’d like to communicate to Christians? One word of caution would be: Don’t fall asleep when the future of your nation is at stake! There are significant values at stake here, such as:

- Will we gain more and more freedom over our own lives or will there be more and more government control?
- Will the courts be made up of judges who create new laws that have been passed by no legislature and approved by no voter sentiment? Or, will the courts be made up of only those who interpret and apply the laws that have been made by democratically elected people who are responsive and accountable to the electorate?
- Will governments protect human life, including the life of the preborn children and the life of the elderly? Or will it allow people to destroy human life? Will government protect marriage as between one man and one woman or will all sorts of other marriage arrangements be declared valid and encouraged by the laws of society; even contrary to biblical, moral standards?
- Will parents be allowed to have the final authority over how their children are educated or will government take more and more of that authority? Will our nation be bankrupted by large government debt? Or, will government be reigned in and called to account for its excessive spending?