

Managing Conversations Dealing with Political and Civil Unrest

The Nature of the Challenge

We are in interesting times with both political and civil unrest at all-time highs. Elections and current events can bring anxiety, fear, anger and even depression if not viewed and understood through the lens of Christ.

The Ministry receives many conversations surrounding current events that often fall into one of the below categories:

- Questions or comments about specific candidates
- Questions or comments about specific political parties
- Questions or comments about specific political agendas like Project 2025
- Questions or comments about specific international political conflicts (Gaza, Ukraine, Taiwan, etc)
- Questions or comments about Christianity being connected to specific political candidates, parties and agendas

As Responders, we all will have our own views and opinions, but as a Ministry, we want to avoid making political statements or taking political positions outside things clearly outlined in scripture. We must evaluate the intent of the guests and determine what their objective is before sharing any personal opinions and making it clear we are not speaking on behalf of the ministry. We want to encourage you to entertain and invest in these conversations appropriately while looking for the opportunities to redirect to Christ.

We do not want to shy away from the difficult topics as people come looking for help. However, our mission is always to share Jesus and turn every conversation towards Christ. It is also important to recognize that many people that come to us with these type topics often bring an agenda and are more interested in making a point about Christians. Many of these agendas are based on some incorrect assumptions or false narratives that lump all believers into some ideology.

The Biblical Response

As followers of Christ, our attitude and our involvement with politics should be guided by our Christian faith. The Bible gives us two truths regarding our stance towards politics and government.

“The first truth is that the will of God permeates and supersedes every aspect of life. It is God’s will that takes precedence over everything and everyone ([Matthew 6:33](#)). God’s plans and purposes are fixed, and His will is inviolable. What He has purposed, He will bring to pass, and no government can thwart His will ([Daniel 4:34-35](#)). In fact, it is God who “sets up kings and

deposes them” ([Daniel 2:21](#)) because “the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes” ([Daniel 4:17](#)). A clear understanding of this truth will help us to see that politics is merely a method God uses to accomplish His will. Even though evil men abuse their political power, meaning it for evil, God means it for good, working “all things together for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” ([Romans 8:28](#)).

Second, we must grasp the fact that our government cannot save us! Only God can. We never read in the New Testament of Jesus or any of the apostles expending any time or energy schooling believers on how to reform the pagan world of its idolatrous, immoral, and corrupt practices via the government. The apostles never called for believers to demonstrate civil disobedience to protest the Roman Empire’s unjust laws or brutal schemes. Instead, the apostles commanded the first-century Christians, as well as us today, to proclaim the gospel and live lives that give clear evidence to the gospel’s transforming power.

Where we have a voice and can elect our leaders, we should exercise that right by voting for those who best demonstrate Christian principles.

There is no doubt that our responsibility to government is to obey the laws and be good citizens ([Romans 13:1–2](#)). God has established all authority, and He does so for our benefit, “to commend those who do right” ([1 Peter 2:13–15](#)). Paul tells us in [Romans 13:1–8](#) that it is the government’s responsibility to rule in authority over us—hopefully for our good—to collect taxes, and to keep the peace.

One of Satan’s grandest deceptions is that we can rest our hope for cultural morality and godly living in politicians and governmental officials. A nation’s hope for change is not to be found in any country’s ruling class. The church has made a mistake if it thinks that it is the job of politicians to defend, to advance, and to guard biblical truths and Christian values.

The church’s unique, God-given purpose does not lie in political activism. Nowhere in Scripture do we have the directive to spend our energy, our time, or our money in governmental affairs. Our mission lies not in changing the nation through political reform, but in changing hearts through the Word of God. When believers think the growth and influence of Christ can somehow be allied with government policy, they corrupt the mission of the church. Our Christian mandate is to spread the gospel of Christ and to preach against the sins of our time. Only as the hearts of individuals in a culture are changed by Christ will the culture begin to reflect that change.

Believers throughout the ages have lived, and even flourished, under antagonistic, repressive, pagan governments. This was especially true of the first-century believers who, under merciless political regimes, sustained their faith under immense cultural stress. They understood that it was they, not their governments, who were the light of the world and the salt of the earth. They adhered to Paul’s teaching to obey their governing authorities, even to honor, respect, and pray for them ([Romans 13:1-8](#)). More importantly, they understood that, as believers, their hope resided in the protection that only God supplies. The same holds true for us today. When we follow the teachings of the Scriptures, we become the light of the world as God has intended

for us to be ([Matthew 5:16](#)).

Political entities are not the savior of the world. The salvation for all mankind has been manifested in Jesus Christ. God knew that our world needed saving long before any national government was ever founded. He demonstrated to the world that redemption could not be accomplished through the power of man, economic strength, military might, or politics. Peace of mind, contentment, hope, and joy—and the salvation of mankind—are provided only through Jesus' death and resurrection."

A Loving Approach

We must always remember that many come to us with difficult stories, different backgrounds and different ideologies. They may have been influenced by others and have no true understanding of why they believe what they believe or follow what they follow. Other come with an agenda looking for debate and dissension.

We have an opportunity in every conversation to help lead people to have a Christian World View and look through the Lens of Christ. As Believers, we have a right and responsibility to be informed and to understand the world around us. Just as in matters of faith, we need to understand "why we believe what we believe".

When seekers want to inquire about specific candidates, we want to urge them to allow the Spirit of God to lead them. For them to do their own research on what the candidate stands for, what they support and what platforms they stand on. The ministry does not support individual candidates or parties. As Believers, we each have a responsibility to evaluate and support candidates with biblical values and standards. Those who will honor and support our freedoms to worship as we desire, freely.

When seekers want to discuss or debate political parties, we urge you to avoid the debate. Urge them to study and read the individual party platforms and to educate themselves on the issues that party supports.

When seekers want to discuss specific political agendas like Project 2025, we urge you to avoid getting sidetracked by such agendas. It is great to be informed, and we can point seekers toward biblical resources, but we should always look for a way to turn these conversations back to Christ and where Christ is in their lives.

When seekers want to discuss international political conflicts (Gaza, Ukraine, Taiwan, etc...), we urge you to focus on how God loves all people and desires mankind to resolve conflict peaceably. Avoid taking sides or belittling groups you may feel are the issue, looking for ways to share Christ in the exchange.

When seekers want to inquire if Christianity is connected to specific candidates, parties or agendas, please be careful not to make statements that represent the Ministry or come across as a Ministry Position. Again, look for ways to inject Christ into the conversation and to allow the Spirit to lead us in such matters.

The key is to avoid building walls and bringing division. We want to bring peace and hope and show that the Hope of Christ can supersede all unrest we may see around us.

[Biblical Response Excerpted from Got Questions: How Should a Christian view politics? - <https://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-politics.html>]